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Wilmington Journal.

VOL. 20. } CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA—WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 14, 1864. { NO. 16.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

1 square, of 10 lines or less, for each and every insertion, $2.

Special Notices will be charged $3 per square for each and every insertion.

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☞No advertisement, reflecting upon private character can, under ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, be admitted.

NOTICE.

[illegible] be sold at the Court House in Smithville, on the [illegible] Monday in February next, nine likely NEGROES belonging to the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Mints, deceased. [illegible] will be sold for a division among the heirs. [illegible]

RUFUS GALLOWAY,
Commissioner.
12-7*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
HALIFAX COUNTY.

[illegible] N. Faulcon and others }
against
[illegible] J. Alston and wife Martha }

[illegible] petition filed at November Term, A. D., 1863, [illegible] Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said [illegible] by [illegible] N. Faulcon and others against M. T. J. [illegible] praying for a division of slaves, [illegible] to the Court that M. T. J. Alston and [illegible] beyond the limits of the State; it is [illegible] publication be made for six weeks in the Wilmington Journal, a weekly newspaper published in the [illegible] notifying said defendants to appear at [illegible] Court to be held at the Court House [illegible] on the third Monday of February, A. D., 1864, [illegible] to answer or demur to said petition, [illegible] will be rendered against [illegible]

[illegible] Whitaker, Clerk of said Court, at office [illegible] Monday of November, A. D., 1863.
J. H. WHITAKER, Clerk.
Pr. adv. $24 11-6t

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
HALIFAX COUNTY.

[illegible] and others }
against
[illegible] Carstarphur }

[illegible] Petition filed at November Term, A. D., [illegible] Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for [illegible] by [illegible] Daniel and others against Elizabeth [illegible] praying for partition of real estate and it appearing to the Court that Elizabeth Carstarphur resides beyond the limits of the State of North Carolina, it is ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Wilmington Journal, a weekly newspaper published in the town of Wilmington, notifying said defendant to appear at [illegible] said Court, to be held at the Court House [illegible] on the third Monday of February, A. D. 1864, [illegible] to answer, plead or demur to said petition, [illegible] pro confesso will be rendered against her.

[illegible] Whitaker, Clerk of said Court, at office [illegible] Monday of November, A. D. 1863.
JAS. H. WHITAKER, Clerk.
Pr adv $24 11-6t.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
HALIFAX COUNTY.

[illegible] heirs, }
vs
[illegible] J. Alston and wife. }

[illegible] petition filed at November Term, A. D., 1863, [illegible] of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said [illegible] N. Faulcon and others against M. T. J. [illegible] Martha, praying for a distribution of Real [illegible] that M. T. J. Alston and wife [illegible] the limits of the State, it is ordered [illegible] for six weeks in the Wilmington [illegible] newspaper, published in the town of [illegible] notifying said defendants to appear at the next [illegible] Court at the Court House in Halifax, on the [illegible] of February, A. D., 1864, then and there to [illegible] to said petition, otherwise judgment [illegible] will be rendered against them.

[illegible] H. Whitaker, Clerk of said Court, at office [illegible] Monday of November, A. D., 1863.
JAS. H. WHITAKER, Clerk.
Pr adv $24 11-6t

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
[illegible] County Court, September Term, 1863.

[illegible]

Petition for Dower.

[illegible] to the Court that some of the defendants [illegible] residents, it is ordered that publication be made [illegible] Wilmington Journal for such defendants as live beyond the limits of the State, to appear at the next term of this Court, to plead, answer or demur, or judgment will be taken [illegible] them.

SAM'L R. BUNTING, Clerk.
13-6t

WILMINGTON, N. C., JAN. 7, 1864.

Habeas Corpus, etc.

[illegible] for the suspension of the *habeas corpus* in [illegible] who have put in substitutes, introduced into the Senate by Mr. PHELAN, of Mississippi, [illegible] striking and important measures [illegible] yet been brought before the country, not [illegible] putting in the principals of substitutes, [illegible] it may be regarded as the complement [illegible] inevitable sequence, as without it the law [illegible] would be either of no force [illegible] would be limited in its operation, its execution [illegible] dependent on any judge of law of any court [illegible] in any district throughout the [illegible] And, with the proverbial uncertainty of [illegible] tendency of opinions to vary, [illegible] there could be no uniformity [illegible] that while one judge might recognize [illegible] law of Congress, another might disregard [illegible] claiming his intervention as [illegible]

With [illegible] telegraphic announcement before us, [illegible] of the features of the proposed [illegible] discussion of its merits [illegible] and might be unjust. The [illegible] come to us from England, and [illegible] it is a common law writ and [illegible] of its suspension is of course [illegible] power of Congress [illegible] depends upon the 3d paragraph [illegible] of the 1st article of the Constitution, which says that "the privilege of the writ of [illegible] shall not be suspended, unless when in [illegible] or invasion the public safety may require [illegible] That [illegible] is a case of invasion is unfortunately [illegible] to require any proof. If Congress [illegible] safety requires the suspension of the [illegible] writ of habeas corpus, we must presume [illegible] such as to vest them with the [illegible] such suspension.

[illegible] extreme power, which only an extreme [illegible] justify. To decide upon the extreme [illegible] emergency devolves upon Congress, [illegible] which [illegible] responsibility which can neither [illegible] nor shrunk from. The emergency of the [illegible] grave enough and pressing enough.— We are compelled to come to the conclusion that the [illegible] involved is one of wise discretion and sound [illegible] of constitutional power. Invasion, one [illegible] expressly named in the Constitution, presses [illegible] state in the Confederacy.

We wish distinctly to state that we are not advocating the measure introduced by Senator PHELAN. As we have already stated, we think it too soon to express [illegible] opinion in regard to it. That it is an extreme measure [illegible] be aware. That as such, its enactment involves [illegible] responsibility even its warmest advocates [illegible] concede. We have only endeavored to place calmly before our readers the constitutional provision bearing upon it, in ignorance of which many [illegible] might innocently be launched [illegible] enactment of which much opposition might [illegible] but disingenuously be arrayed against it.

There are considerations of policy which we simply suggest but do not insist upon. They are at least worthy of consideration, and it is but fair that all relevant considerations should be placed before the public at a time when its judgment upon any acts of its public servants is shortly to be invoked. No good can come of any excited language or of any mere appeals to passion or prejudice. Indeed, we truly say that no people, situated as we are, can afford to indulge in such things or sanction their indulgence on the part of the conductors of the press, or of other parties.

The present siege of Charleston has already lasted precisely six months. This is the one hundred and eighty-third day of the siege.

Necessity is the mother of invention and causes people to try their hands at things which, under other circumstances, they would never have thought of. In illustration of this we may remark that Mr. C. H. Summersett, of this place, showed us this morning a leg that he is about finishing for MR. PETER H. SMITH, a gallant soldier who lost his own at Sharpsburg. The leg is of the root of the cotton or pawpaw gum, is light, and neatly jointed at the ankle, while the foot is accurately moulded, with a convenient spring at the "ball." A socket is made for the stump of the leg, which is about six inches in length below the knee joint. The socket is padded and enclosed in leather which laces around and above the knee. The leg is further secured and supported by straps, which are sustained from the shoulders and waist, we suppose. It is a very neatly got up affair, and seems to us to be well planned and likely to prove serviceable and convenient.

THE weather gets no better very fast. We think it would puzzle any one to decide whether freezing, raining, snowing or sleeting predominates this morning. It appears to be a sort of mixture of all three, and *that* mixture is unpleasant in the extreme.

CORRESPONDENTS.—We have on hand several communications, the appearance of which must depend on circumstances. Our wish has been to publish nothing calculated to produce personal controversy, even in our advertising columns. Such has been our course, and such will continue to be our course; but, at the same time, occasions may arise where the interests of truth and public justice must take precedence, and cannot be sacrificed even to the private feelings of individuals. The communications to which we allude may require to be published on such an occasion, of the occurrence of which we must be allowed to judge.

From the Liverpool (Eng.,) Mercury.

UNION OR CONQUEST.

Its not often that we find ourselves agreeing with Gen. Butler, but there is much of force and good sense in some remarks which he lately addressed to a meeting of the Union State League of Massachusetts, and which we commend to the grave consideration of all friends of constitutional freedom on either side of the Atlantic. General Butler is sufficiently clear headed to perceive the hopeless impossibility of the war between North and South ending in a restoration of the old Federal Union, and he argues the matter in a way which must, we think, carry conviction to all minds capable of a moment's serious reflection. A member of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet (Postmaster Blair) having recently expressed the opinion that "the rebel commonwealths, on throwing down their arms, should be received into the Union with unimpaired rights, and with their local institutions," General Butler points out that this is a simple absurdity. It is preposterous to talk of re-admitting the Confederate States into the Union, even if they wished to be re-admitted, for the obvious reason that they would return with views, purposes, interests, and passions wholly incompatible with the discharge of the duties incident to the federal relation. It is absolutely certain that they would be restless, dissatisfied, and disloyal members of the federation, which they would only have re-entered on compulsion; whereas it is of the very essence of the federal system that the several States composing it should co-operate willingly and in good faith for a common end. The free and unfettered exercise of popular franchises is the very life and soul of a republican confederation; yet how is it possible to entrust the "rebel commonwealths" with powers which would infallibly be employed, on the very first occasion, to the detriment of their federal allies? General Butler gives a couple of well-chosen illustrations of a position which is really too plain to need any illustration whatever. "If," he sensibly asks, "the Confederate States were readmitted, and their representatives took their seats in Congress, before some radical change were effected, what guarantee would there be that the Federal national debt would not be repudiated, or made to stand upon the alternative that the Confederate debt must likewise be paid?" Nothing could be more to the purpose than this pertinent suggestion. Of course the Southern members of a restored Congress would vote to a man against any and every scheme of taxation saddling them and their constituents with the costs of their own subjugation, except on the absurdly impossible hypothesis that Northern members would reciprocate the courtesy by sharing the expense of a "wicked and unnatural rebellion." Nothing could enable the restored Union to live through the first session of a freely elected Congress, unless it were agreed at the outset to wipe out the war liabilities of North and South alike. Again, there is the insurmountable difficulty of the Presidential elections. How is it conceivable that North and South could ever agree in the choice of a President, unless the Northern majority would once more submit, as of old, to Southern dictation? "The rebel States must be regarded as destroyed, or it would be almost impossible to choose another President, since no candidate likely to be selected would receive such a support in the North as to give him a majority of the whole Electoral College constituted of all the States, both loyal and rebel." The conclusion is inevitable, and General Butler fearlessly faces it. There can be no restoration of the old Union of co-equal commonwealths. If North and South are ever again to co-exist in one political system, a radical change must be effected in their mutual relations, and we are not left in doubt as to what that change must be. The North must be master and the South must be servant. The seceded States must be "regarded as destroyed," leaving nothing behind them but so much "territory" to be held and governed as a conquered dependency. For the South there must henceforth be no representation in Congress, no share in the election of Presidents, no State rights, no voice in the levying and disbursement of its own taxes, no popular franchises of any sort. Its government must be administered by Northern military pro consuls, its people held down in subjection by Northern armies.— This, and not any idle dream of re union, is henceforward the only intelligible object of the war which is to be fought out "to the bitter end."

To dispassionate observers of the course of events in America there is, of course, nothing new in all this — the conclusion which General Butler so logically states and so courageously accepts has long been familiar to politicians who have refused to be blinded by unmeaning phrases. From the first it has been evident to impartial bystanders that the alternative was not separation or re-union, but separation or subjugation. Separation is conceivable and possible; subjugation is conceivable, though it is doubtful whether it be possible; but re-union by force of arms, the compulsory re-establishment of an essentially voluntary pact, is neither possible nor conceivable.

Now that this truth, or rather truism, is forcing itself on men's minds and finding open utterance, it may be hoped that the friends of constitutional law and liberty in both hemispheres will very seriously consider the practical bearings of a conflict which misplaced sympathies have perhaps contributed to embitter and prolong. What the Northern Federation is really (if unconsciously) fighting for is the creation of a vast Poland or Venetia, to be subdued and annexed by military violence and held in subjection by military terrorism. It is exceedingly questionable, to say the least, whether the enterprise is practicable; but there can be no question whatever that, if practicable, its successful accomplishment would be the most grievous calamity that could befall the victors. It is not given to any people to enjoy the luxury of ruling an alien and hostile dependency, especially on its own frontier, by armed force, without suffering a fatal reaction on its own domestic liberties. The habitual exercise of unrestrained and arbitrary power over a neighbouring—above all, a kindred —community is the very worst imaginable training for the citizens of a free and self-governed commonwealth. A nation which has learned to govern by the sword, and to admire government by the sword, is already more than half prepared to endure at home the military despotism which it practises abroad. The generals and the soldiers who are to repress disaffection in South Carolina and Alabama will be very dangerous citizens for Massachusetts; and it were vain to hope that the civil and political franchise which are systematically scorned, hated, and trampled down on one side of a river or mountain ridge will be long held sacred on the other. If habeas corpus, trial by jury, freedom of the press, freedom of public meeting, freedom of the vote, are to be interdicted to the rebellious and subjugated South, it is but too certain that they will be held, if held at all, on a most precarious tenure by the victorious North. The same political passions and the same political necessities which impel the Northern Federation to rule the recalcitrant South by armed force and terror will also impel a dominant Northern majority to coerce and terrorise a troublesome minority of its own citizens at home. We have already seen something of this; but the occasional invasions of legal right which authority or mob violence may perpetrate in the first months of a fierce civil strife, are as nothing compared with that hardened indifference to law and liberty which comes with the habitual and systematic exercise of arbitrary power. A very few years of the *regime* which the necessities of conquest would compel the North to impose upon the South—a *regime* of enormous armies of occupation, supported by forced military contributions from a subjected territory, and commanded by generals knowing no law but their own will—would, it may be feared, leave little remaining of that reverence for constitutional freedom and civic right which is the only reliable guarantee of a nation's liberties. This is the justification—if any justification be needed—of those friends of freedom who refuse their sympathies to the authors and abettors of the present disastrous war. It is in the interests of the North no less than of the South—rather it is in the common interests of humanity, civilization, and progress— that we deprecate the indefinite prolongation of a conflict which has no intelligible aim of object but to make one nation a despot over another.

"PUNISHMENT BY FIRE."—The New York Daily News under this head, editorializes on the burning of houses on the Mississippi river to punish the people for the firing on steamers by guerrillas, and closes by saying:

"Such worse than vandal acts, neither deter the guerrillers, nor do they strengthen the attachment to the Government. These roving bands have no property on the river to lose; and every house fired by Federal soldiers swells their ranks with bold and desperate men, filled with revenge against those who have burned their homes and turned their wives and little ones on the cold charity of the world, without a roof to cover them."

"If this war is to continue—if brother is to still meet brother, and father meet son in deadly strife and in blood and carnage, with their attendant train of horrors, in heaven's name let us be spared the recital of any more of this Indian mode of warfare, against women and children, forced to leave their burning dwellings and their path lighted by a midnight conflagration of their own homes. Such warfare is beneath that of a civilized nation—is fitter for fiends than for men. The Mississippi, from Cairo down, is now almost a desert waste. Fire and sword have done their work. Those who took an active part in the rebellion left for the interior, and it was only those who still have confidence in President Lincoln's first message, and the declaration of Congress, in the passage by an almost unanimous vote of the Crittenden resolution, that remained, and they have since realized that Abolition promises are, as if written upon water—made but to be broken."

THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Petersburg Register gives the following brief sketch of the career of Hon. George Davis, the new Attorney General:

Mr. Davis has never been widely known as a public man. A *politician*, in the *party* sense of the word, he never was. He is about 45 years of age, and a man of fine presence and deportment, and respected and beloved wherever he is known. Blessed with a high order of mind, he has cultivated it assiduously, and has attained high rank, not only as a lawyer, but as a man of varied literary acquirements. Prior to the troubles which culminated in Lincoln's election, he was a consistent member of the Whig party, and up to February, 1861, abided by the "Union." The Legislature of North Carolina, *then* animated by the true patriotic feeling, and throwing aside all mere party predilections, sent a commission to the Peace Congress, and of this commission Mr. Davis was a member. Learning from the result of that mission, undertaken for purposes of an honorable and satisfactory settlement of our difficulties with the North, how impossible it was for the South longer to live in amity and honor in a Governmental union with the North, he returned to his home at Wilmington, and bade his countrymen prepare for the struggle which he saw was at hand, and not to be averted, except by a slavish abandonment of all our rights. In a like spirit of an abandonment of old party predilections, Mr. Davis was elected a Senator of the Confederate Congress, at the same time that the Hon. Wm. T. Dortch, an old Democrat, was elected. Mr. Davis "drew" the short term, and Mr. Dortch the long term.

The above is a succinct history of the brief public career of the new Attorney General, than whom a man more pure and better qualified for the post lives not in the Confederacy.

Marrying Under Difficulties—The Honey Moon Sadly Interrupted.

The Memphis Bulletin publishes the following:

Not long since a Confederate soldier returned from the wars to his home near the State line dividing Kentucky and Tennessee. The first business he attended to was that of marrying the girl he had left behind when he first started out to seek the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth. A large party was gotten up by the bride's family, and a man who was conceded to be a justice of the peace, because he had held the office for twenty years before this cruel war had commenced, performed the ceremony that united two loving hearts that had but a single thought.

After these rites had been observed, there was a feast of hog and hominy, roast turkey, pumpkin pies, etc., and several gallons of forty rod whisky to be discussed. In the course of human events the newly wedded pair were put to bed, according to the custom still in vogue among the rural population.

They had scarcely began to realize the "situation" before there was a great rattling at their chamber door, and an imperative demand for them to arise. Some prying people had just discovered that the magistrate was not a regularly elected officer and was not a justice at all. Alarm took them all, and another justice was sent for who lived some miles distant. Before midnight the knot was tied again and the anxious couple were suffered to retire for the second time.

The first contretemps was discussed freely by those who had not gone home, and the various contingencies of the matter investigated thoroughly. All at once it was found out that the last justice lived in Kaintuck, while the ceremony had been performed just over the line in Tennessee. There was a hurried rush up stairs, and another arousing of the bride and groom. They came down stairs somewhat dissatisfied with the turn matters had taken, and then the whole party went down the road three quarters of a mile till they got into the State where the squire lived, and there the wedding rites were performed for the third time. The bride's mother, not satisfied with all this comedy of errors, had some time before dispatched a swift messenger for a stated preacher, and when they got back to the paternal mansion, to make all things safe, the knot was tied for the fourth time by the man of God. By this time the first glimpse of daylight was streaking the eastern sky.

Wearied out by the experiences and anxieties of the night, they were at last suffered to retire in peace. Half an hour had not elapsed before there was another confusion in the house. A thundering knock at the chamber door of the young couple made the groom thoroughly mad. He told whoever it was that it was "too late," and swore he would not get up again for all the mistakes in the world. He would whip the first man that disturbed him again, he didn't care who it was. A gruff demand to open the door if he did not wish to have it beaten down, and the rattle of a musket decided him to submit once more to the imposition.

On opening the portal, he was confronted by a Federal soldier, and the words "you are my prisoner, come along with me."

Vainly did he plead to have the privilege of giving bail for his appearance, and all his offers of bribes were as useless as the idle wind. The officer charged with the arrest was inexorable, and now the chap is spending his share of the honey-moon at Columbia, in the guard house, while the disconsolate maid, his bride, weeps for him at home.

TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

NORTHERN DATES—FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA—FROM CHATTANOOGA —BEAST BUTLER—FROM MEXICO.

PETERSBURG, VA., Jan. 6th, 1864.

The New York Herald, of the 31st ult. has been received. No news from the army of the Potomac or from Charleston.

The news from Western Virginia is dated Dec. 30th.— Gen. Kelly had information that Gen. Early, with nine thousand rebels, was between New Market and Mount Jackson; Rosser has seven hundred and Imboden fifteen hundred.— Sullivan has returned to Harper's Ferry with one hundred prisoners and the same number of horses. Kelly states that he has captured in all over four hundred horses and a large amount of property.

Gen. Thomas dispatches from Chattanooga on Wednesday, state that a rebel force under Wheeler had captured a Federal train on the 26th, bound to Knoxville, at Charleston, but Col. Long pursued and defeated Wheeler, capturing over one hundred prisoners.

Butler sneers at the threat held out in Davis' proclamation against himself and officers, and declares that if a hair of one of his officers or soldiers be injured, except in just warfare, the day that it is done shall be one of sorrow and mourning for all men included in the Confederate States.— Butler thinks there is but one way to meet this new state of the siege, and that is by the sternest retaliation. He says the Federal government having exhausted every form of appeal, there is nothing left but to authorize that a sufficient number of rebel officers be placed under such keeping and put upon such diet, as shall in all respects correspond to the treatment as to clothing, food, and fuel, that the wretched Union men receive in the stenchy houses of the rebel capital.

Gold in New York, on the 30th was quoted at 151 to 153.

Mexico City dates to the 7th of December have been received. The French troops entered Morelia on the 30th Nov. Gen. Bazaine had 12 000 French troops at Caliega, and Gen. Donai was at Salamanca. It is stated that the Governments of Holland and Spain have recognized the new Mexican Government.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 6, 1864.

A most important measure was presented to the Senate to day by Mr. Phelan, of Mississippi, being a bill to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in all cases involving the execution of the law passed recently to put men into the service who have furnished Substitutes. The bill was not read, but immediately transferred to the secret calendar, so that its provisions are unknown. The Senate soon went into secret session to consider it. The Senate adopted a resolution instructing the Military Committee to enquire into the expediency of reforming the present system of enrollments, particularly as to the class of persons or officers appointed to serve as enrolling officers; to limit the length of time they shall be allowed to serve in the same districts; to establish inspectors of enrolling districts; and to limit the number of men enrolling officers shall have as a Provost Guard.

In the House the bill to repeal existing and regulate future exemptions, which the Military Committee reported on Monday, was discussed till the House went into secret session on the tax and currency bills. An important address from the Presidents of two Rail Roads was laid on desks of the members this morning in relation to the bill to repeal exemptions, setting forth that it was impossible to keep the roads running without retaining all the mechanics and skilled employees now in the country, and holding out every inducement to get all we can; and that General Grant, appreciating the importance of breaking down our Railroad transportation as the most effective method of weakening our army, had already enticed a considerable number of skillful Railroad Mechanics from Atlanta to Memphis. The address concludes by asking Congress to let not blind zeal for increasing the numbers of the army, or the prejudice against Railroad Companies, who were the first to sustain the Government by transporting at half rates and receiving the notes and bonds when they had no market value, precipitate the country and armies into irretrievable disasters. A bill to relieve farmers from the tax on cotton burned by order of the commanders of the armies was presented and referred. The President has vetoed the bill appropriating two millions of dollars to clothe the Kentucky troops.

FROM TENNESSEE.

RUSSELLVILLE, January 6th, 1864.

The fighting last week was [illegible]gether with cavalry on our side. Colonel Crows, of Morgan's Division, attacked the enemy near Dandridge, and captured a battery with the exception of one gun, which was afterwards recaptured; but the enemy were driven back to their entrenchments at Mossy Creek.

Major Ball, of the 10th Georgia, was killed in the engagement on the 29th.

General Martin's entire cavalry attacked a superior force of the enemy at Talbot's Station, and after a stubborn resistance, drove them back four miles, when they were reinforced by a division of infantry, and drove Martin back with considerable loss. The enemy remains at Mossy Creek, strongly entrenched. Our loss 120.

The railroad will be in running order to Bristol in a few days. The weather is cold, with some snow.

SALE OF BONDS, STOCKS, &C.

RICHMOND, January 6th, 1864.

At auction to-day Confederate eight per cents., due in 1869-'81, brought 115 and 113. Only small amounts were sold. Coupon bonds, of the fifteen million loan, 183 to 185; registered 147 to 148; Virginia registered bonds, 241; sterling exchange, 2 000; silver coin, 1-25.

A snow storm commenced here this morning, and snow has been falling all day.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

ORANGE C. H., Jan. 6th, 1864.

Mosby, with a portion of his battalion, came up with a scouting party of the enemy, consisting of some seventy-five men from the first [illegible] battalion, under Captain Hunter, near Rectortown, on new year's day. A sharp fight ensued, in which the enemy lost five killed and nine wounded. Mosby's loss was two killed and three wounded. Mosby captured three non-commissioned officers and thirty-seven privates, with their arms, equipments and horses. The rest of the party escaped. The prisoners are en route for Richmond.

CAPTURE OF YANKEES.

ABINGDON, VA., Jan. 7th, 1864.

Gen. Wm. E. Jones captured on Sunday last, near Jonesville, Lee county, Va., a few over four hundred of the Yankee force that has been investing that county. He captured three pieces of artillery, all their wagons, horses and mules. His loss was five killed and twelve wounded.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

ORANGE C. H., VA., Jan. 8th, 1864.

The 4th Virginia Cavalry surprised the infantry picket of the enemy near Eldorado, Culpeper Co., on Tuesday night, capturing three of them. Large numbers of the three years men, in the Yankee army, are re-enlisting for the war, receiving in every instance a large bounty and thirty-five days furlough. The enemy will preserve their old organization intact. The weather is bitter cold, the thermometer being eight degrees above zero.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, January 7th, 1864.

Measures to prevent the escape from the Confederacy of those who have heretofore been exempt from service by having furnished substitutes, or otherwise, and to add large numbers of this class to the army, are now receiving a large share of attention in Congress. In addition to the bill presented in the Senate yesterday by Mr Phelan to suspend the *Habeas Corpus* in all substitute cases, the same Senator to-day presented a bill declaring that all persons liable to military service, who shall voluntarily depart the country without the written permission of the President, will be held liable in person and property in all respects to the laws in relation to alien enemies.

Mr. Henry, of Tennessee, introduced a similar bill, which provides that all persons liable to military duty, who shall abscond the country, or go beyond the enemy's lines, to avoid military service, shall be held to have chosen to take sides against us in the war, and declared to be alien enemies, and all their property and credits subject to sequestration, and all deeds of conveyance made by persons seeking to avoid military duty shall be declared fraudulent and void. Both bills were referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Special Committee appointed last session reported this morning, recommending Congress to make a contract with skillful reporters to report the debates of Congress. After transacting matters of minor importance the Senate went into secret session.

One of the city papers this morning intimated that a member of Congress had vouched for and obtained passports for three persons to go to Northumberland county, which is beyond the Confederate lines, and had received one thousand dollars from each for procuring the passports, knowing that they intended to leave the Confederacy; and that said member, moreover, has been directly aiding our enemies. The House adopted a resolution that the Speaker appoint a committee of three to investigate the matter.

The House passed a bill appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for the relief of the Cherokee Indians who have adhered to the South. They are represented as driven from their homes, with their families, all their property lost, and in great distress.

The bill passed by the Senate, declaring farmers not to be required to pay one tenth of their straw, shucks, &c., was referred to the currency committee.

A resolution to meet to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, was adopted.

The bill to place in the military service citizens of Maryland, and any other States or Territories of the United States, or other foreign nations, was taken up and discussed till the House arrived to go into secret session. No action was taken.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Jan. 7th, 1864.

Rumors of changes in the War Department are without foundation. Several persons have been arrested for rendering false returns of sales to the Confederate Assessor, and others have fled to avoid prosecution. Efficient steps have been taken to detect similar frauds, and bring the guilty parties to justice.

The train from Danville, with Gen. Morgan, is expected to-night about ten o'clock. A public reception will take place to-morrow at the City Hall.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 7th, 1864.

All quiet this morning. No firing to-day. It has been raining incessantly, and the weather is very cold.

FROM TENNESSEE.

RUSSELLVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 7, 1864.

Owing to the cold weather everything is quiet in front.— The main body of the enemy remain in and around Knoxville. Gen. Grant visited Knoxville recently, and made a speech to the troops. It is reported that some of the enemy re-enlisted under the old officers, with the bounty of $400 and land warrants located in East Tennessee.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States:

The propositions pending before the Houses of Congress at its present session, to conscribe for military service the mechanics, agents and employees of Railroad Companies without exception, will, if executed, inevitably produce consequences which must prove most disastrous to the military operations of the Confederacy. It is well known to all persons tolerably well informed on such subjects, that from the commencement of this war, the supply of mechanics in the Confederate States have been wholly inadequate to the wants of the country, even for military purposes. A large portion of the mechanics in the Southern States —probably much the larger portion of them—were always Northern men by birth and education.— Of these very great numbers, on the breaking out of the war, at once returned to the Northern States, leaving still further destitute of mechanical labor and skill the Southern States, who, even *with* their aid had imported so much the largest portion of the machinery and mechanical products used by it from the Northern States. Few can be wholly ignorant of the fact that, throughout this war, the greatest difficulties with which our armies have had to contend, have resulted from the total want, or inadequate supply of the products of mechanical skill and labor, and of the means of rapid and efficient transportation. Fewer still are aware of the *extent* to which those difficulties have been felt, and of their effect upon military operations. It is scarcely any exaggeration to say, that one good and efficient mechanic or experienced Railroad officer or agent is worth to our armies a platoon, if not a company of soldiers. How many admirable plans have failed—how many campaigns have been lost, for want of adequate supplies of clothing, ammunition, railroad machinery and means of transportation. But the country is now menaced with a further depletion of these necessary classes of labor by an attempt to transfer men to the ranks who are ten-fold more useful to the army where they are. To a very considerable extent this effort will *certainly fail*. These men, whether natives of the North, of the South, or of Europe, feel that their services are of ten-fold more value to the army in the positions they occupy, than they would be in the army; and that, having for *this reason* been heretofore by the Government exempted from military service, they have lost the advantage they would otherwise have had by an earlier enlistment, in selecting their associates in arms, and in opportunities for promotion and command, and must now be thrust as privates, into any service which the Government may assign to them. Never to have been exempted many esteem a less hardship. Influenced by considerations such as these, many of these men will leave the country, rather than be exposed to the exercise of what they so deeply feel to be an unwise, unnecessary, and to them, unjust measure. Nor can their exodus be prevented by any precautions which our authorities can take.— Our frontier is too extensive to be effectually guarded by any police or picket force which can be employed, so as to prevent the escape of one out of ten attempting it. Daily experience proves this. These men are encumbered with little property, and that they would secretly convert into specie, producing a further injury to the country by its exportation. All this *has been done already* by a very considerable number of mechanics in the Confederacy. Every encouragement and facility has been and will be extended to them by the enemy, who know but too well, however blind to the important fact our own authorities may be, that they inflict upon the Confederacy the most vital blow, by depriving it of any of its mechanical force. Gen. Grant is said to have shown his appreciation of this efficient means of weakening our army, by enticing from Atlanta or Memphis a considerable number of valuable and skillful mechanics. So far from *restricting*, a wise and safe policy would *expand* the scope of exemptions of mechanics and railroad men commensurately with the extension of the conscription. When the conscription was most limited, it was scarcely possible to obtain a sufficient number of men to conduct efficiently our railroads, which are so essential to our military success. How then can they be possibly procured, when the conscription is extended over all those, who had been with great difficulty obtained without the pale of the former conscription.

It is the idle dream of theorists and declaimers to substitute disabled soldiers or others incapable of military service for men educated for, and employed in, these pursuits. The simplest of them requires far more peculiar skill and experience than the inexperienced can be made to understand. And nothing is more certain than that men unfit for military service, are wholly unfit for the employment on railroads. Actual experience has established this beyond doubt. This blind zeal to put every male in the army can only increase the number to be fed, armed and clothed, while it destroys the only resources for transporting troops, food, arms or clothes for them—already inadequate for the armies of the field. At this time, with the existing laws and military regulations, the efficiency and capacity of every railroad in the Confederacy is very greatly diminished for want of suitable men to operate and keep them in repair. The employment of inexperienced men produces confusion, and multiplies collisions and accidents, while the want of mechanics keeps a large portion of machinery and cars useless for want of repairs. Take any considerable number of the railroad employees remaining, and the operations of the railroads MUST CEASE. Let the Government undertake to carry them on with disabled soldiers, boys or old men, without experience or skill, and but a few months or weeks will suffice to show the last train run on the last railroad in the Confederacy. No agencies have been more efficient and necessary in carrying on this war than the railroad companies. Adopt the measures proposed, and not only will you inflict widespread loss on stockholders, (many of them soldiers in the army,) but you put an end to railroad transportation. What substitute for it can be had? It requires one thousand wagons and drivers, and four thousand horses, to transport in five days what a Railroad train can in one, or five times that number to do it one day. Where are these to come from, when enough for the other wants of the army cannot be had?

With those best acquainted with the condition and resources of our Railroads, including the officers of government having special charge of Railroad transportation, it has been long a subject of most anxious consideration by what means these agencies can be maintained in operation with every fostering care and aid which the Government can bestow on them; and all are oppressed with the apprehension that not a few of them must be abandoned with each successive year of this war. What then must be the result, and how soon must it occur, when the Government, instead of fostering, still further cripples and destroys them? Already the Government has a Bureau of the War Department superintending Railroad transportation.— Let the officers of that Bureau be consulted as to the effect of the proposed measures. They are impartial, and they are informed on this subject. But let not a blind zeal for swelling the numbers of the army, or a prejudice against Railroad companies, (who were the first to sustain this Government by offering to perform its transportation at half rates of toll, and receive payment in Government bonds and notes when they had no market value,) precipitate the country and its armies into irretrievable disaster.

P. V. DANIEL, JR., Pres. R. F. & P. R. R. Co.
CHARLES ELLIS, Pres. R. & P. R. R. Co.

The undersigned endorse fully the foregoing address to Congress, believing the statements set forth therein to be facts, our experience fully demonstrating them to be so.

S. D. WALLACE,
Pres't. W. & W. R. R.
S. L. FREMONT,
Ch'f Eng. & Supt. W. & W. R.
THOS. D. WALKER,
Pres't W. & M. R. R.
HENRY M. DRANE,
Gen'l Sup't. W. & M. R. R.

From the Lynchburg Republican.

A "POEM,"

Suggested by the recent law calling for men who have unfortunately put in substitutes—Respectfully, Piously, Tearfully and Sympathetically dedicated to all concerned, with a hope that it may assist them *muchly* by

THE AUTHOR—OLD SOLDIER.

Oh weep not, conscript, weep not,
Old Jeff has called for thee,
A soldier Congress makes you,
A soldier you must be.
Make up your mind
To stand in line,
And quake not at the Yanks,
To shoot your gun
And call it fun,
And for life return your thanks.

CHORUS.

Then weep not, conscript, weep not,
Old Jeff has called for thee,
A soldier Congress makes you,
A soldier you must be.

O weep not, conscript, weep not,
If rations should be scarce,
'Tis said an empty *stumic*
Will make you doubly fierce.
Then eat your crust,
Your bay'net thrust
Through every Yankee heart,
And if unhurt,
Your *gal* will sit
At home and call you smart.

O weep not, conscript, weep not,
When marching through the mud,
'Tis better far I tell you
Than spilling your life's blood.
Then march along
And sing this song
And cuss the Yanks now and then.
And when you camp
Just take a tramp
And steal a pig or hen.

O weep not, conscript, weep not,
You're battling for the right.
Now conscript let me tell you
Don't scratch them when you bite,
But jerk your shirt
Off with a flirt
And catch them as they run,
Then with your nail
The *bugs* assail
And *march* them one by one.

From the Salisbury Watchman.

Almost every editorial paragraph in the Daily Progress, now a days, closes with a contemptuous sneer either at the Confederate Government, Confederate officials, or other Confederate interests which it should be the sacred duty of citizens to cherish. If a robbery or murder is committed at Richmond, we are told that until secession was accomplished and Richmond became the capitol of the Confederate Government, that city was a model of good morals. If a rascal gathers up his effects and bribes a rascally official to let him cross the lines and take refuge in the enemy's country with his ill-gotten gold, we are reminded that these are the officials who command us to fast and pray, and suffer a little while longer and we shall be independent. If a Hotel at Weldon rents for $13 000 a year, it is because Weldon is only 80 miles from Richmond, where Confederate money is made, and where, of course, it is appreciated. If a negro at the same place hires for only 75 cents, we are assured by the editor that he hopes amid all the wreck of war, that "the 'institution' will pay!" And thus on, to the end of almost every paper issued from the Progress office. And what can be the object of this course? It seems to us the inevitable *effect* of it must be to discourage the hearts and relax the arms of our people. Job never was troubled by a worse comforter.

Expensive Undertakings.

The New York Daily News, in an editorial, says that the powder, ball and shell alone which have been used in the attempt to take Charleston, cost the United States Government seven millions of dollars, and the whole cost of the various expeditions fitted out against the city has amounted to upward of thirty millions of dollars. The cost will probably be doubled, adds the News, and the undertaking will be abandoned.

It further adds, that enough has been expended in attempts to take Richmond to build half a dozen cities of the size, and almost as many lives lost as would populate the whole of them.

ERRICSON'S GREAT GUN.—The great gun which has been for some months in the course of construction for the navy by Mr. Erricson, has arrived at New York, and is being prepared for service. Mr. Erricson contracted some time since to construct some 13 inch smooth bore guns, which are to have a much greater initial velocity than any now in use. He is to receive nothing for them unless they burn over fifty pounds of powder; beyond fifty, Mr. Erricson is to receive $5,000. He is confident of being able to burn 100 pounds, and is certain of burning 75 pounds. The solid shot will weigh 220 pounds The new gun with 75 pounds charge, (one third of the weight,) will have as great a velocity as the 68 pound guns, and its punching power will be 55,000,000 pounds, or exactly double that of the largest English gun. With 100 pounds of powder, its velocity should be raised 2,000 feet and its punching power will be 68,000,000 pounds It will thus be by far the most formidable gun yet constructed.

DIED,

In Richmond, Va., Dec. 18th, 1863, of small Pox, RANSOM M. FUTCH, in the 21st year of his age.

The subject of this notice, was a member of Co. K, 3d Reg't N. C. Troops and a native of New Hanover county. Prompted by the spirit of patriotism at the commencement of hostilities, he enrolled his name as a volunteer, and went forth to battle in defence of the rights and liberties of the Southern cause. And although he did not die on the battle field amid the clash of arms and storm of battle, yet he died as many a brave soldier dies, in the service of his country. He leaves a father in the 51st Regiment, a mother, five little brothers and a sister, at home, to mourn his loss.

H. H. M.

Burgaw, N. C., Jan. 6th, 1864

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1864.

MISSING.

The following copies of our *Weekly Journal* are missing from our files. Any person having them will confer a favor by sending them to us, for which we will pay 50 cents for two copies of each date:
October 8th, 1863—2 copies
March 19th, 1863—1 "
March 26th, 1863—2 "

Our Credit Abroad.

From what we have been able to learn by conversation with intelligent gentlemen who have recently returned from Europe, the impression among Confederate [illegible] citizens now in Europe [illegible] the *only* plan to sustain Con[illegible] abroad and restore it at home is for the [illegible] Government to become the sole holder and exporter of Cotton, Tobacco, Naval Stores, etc. That some such [illegible] has been pressed upon the attention of Congress [illegible] will be pressed we regard as likely.

We need not speak at this late day of the mutual action and reaction of foreign and domestic credit. The value of our currency at home is felt to depend upon the price of foreign exchange—exchange, for reasons [illegible] being somewhat higher than gold.—[illegible] of exchange is the barometer which marks the rise or fall of credit abroad. If exchange could be brought down to five for one instead of twenty for one, [illegible] paper dollar at home would soon be found to rise proportionately in value.

How the proposers of this or any similar measure propose to work it out, is more than we are able to say or surmise. It will be a very difficult matter to arrange, if it can be arranged at all. We await the progress of events, which may bring some developements.

The recent presence of General BUTLER in Newbern, together with the known fact that troops have for some time been concentrating at that point, as well as [illegible] Beaufort Harbor, leaves [illegible] room to doubt that an advance of a most serious character is contemplated, and on the eve of execution, by the enemy in North Carolina.

The enemy may advance in the direction of Kinston and Goldsboro', or he may not. But in whatever direction his main line may come, we may expect feints [illegible] be changed into real attacks, if expedient,—to be [illegible] at other points so as not only to distract the attention of our commanders, but also to hold out the stronger prospect of cutting the Railroad at some one or more points. Kenansville and Magnolia are on the line [illegible] the enemy's force may, in all probability be expected to advance, especially as the [illegible] soon there as at [illegible] while at Kenansville and Magnolia the enemy would be much nearer to Wilmington and Fayetteville [illegible] Raleigh.

[illegible] the enemy has largely [illegible] Washington and Plymouth [illegible] for [illegible] against the road at [illegible] two points north of Goldsboro', say at Rocky [illegible] and Weldon. One force from Washington, advancing by way of Tarboro', and another, from Plymouth, [illegible] the Roanoke, or moving to [illegible] their last attempt [illegible] county seat of Northampton.

[illegible] speculations, but [illegible] a great appearance of [illegible]. We do not think that an advance in [illegible] is close at [illegible] we may be assured [illegible] and also the railroad at [illegible]. That much appears [illegible]. At any rate, without wishing to [illegible] we think it not out of [illegible] the points menaced on their [illegible].

[illegible] Indications.

[illegible] by an inroad of the enemy [illegible] apparently most [illegible] the outlaw BUTLER, we are [illegible] by the inception of a movement which [illegible] our fortunes [illegible] with an agitation [illegible] the calling of a Convention [illegible] North Carolina out of the Confederacy.—[illegible] firmly believe, is the [illegible] aimed at by the radical agitators at Raleigh and elsewhere.

[illegible] this year, not [illegible] as regards the Confederacy, but as regards the State of North Carolina. We need not attempt to flatter ourselves that the trial will pass away, or that the issue can be evaded. It will have to be met. Invasion on the one hand and attempted disintegration on the other must be firmly combatted. The one must be [illegible]. We say, and we say most sincerely, that plans evidently concocted and movements evidently set on foot in North [illegible] graver consequences [illegible] the advance of the enemy. We say, as we [illegible] before, that [illegible] defended by such [illegible] the Confederate States, [illegible] it first be abandoned or betrayed by those who ought to uphold it. We say that, dark as the days are, they are not dark enough [illegible] the final issue, if all will do their duty bravely, and [illegible] hand. But can we say this if we are to have division [illegible] to destroy the accord [illegible] the States, and [illegible] their consideration?

Mark how adroitly every enemy of the Confederate Government and Confederate cause endeavours to compensate for his unsoundness by an affectation of extra devotion to North Carolina. North Carolina has cast her fate with her sisters of the South. She has done so voluntarily. She has done so with her eyes open. Her honor is pledged to stand or fall with her sister States, and [illegible] draw back at such a time as this. She cannot even think of drawing back without dishonor, such as no true son or citizen would live to see self-inflicted by the sovereignty to which he owes allegiance. The man who would strike down the Confederacy while at the same time professing extravagant and exclusive [illegible] for [illegible] to North Carolina deceives, and deceives for a purpose. [illegible] ought to mark its own reprobation, and that reprobation ought further to be stamped so plainly by public opinion that the [illegible] would [illegible] for very shame sake—it shame [illegible] left with such men—be silenced forever.

Severe Concussion.

At about half past two o'clock this morning a concussion was felt here that caused every house in town to shake, jarring the doors and windows and waking up the sleepers. Whether any report was heard we do not know; we felt the concussion and heard the noise produced by the jarring, but nothing else—no report as of a gun or the like. The feeling was of a sharp and powerful jerk or slam.

As yet we have been unable to find where the explosion occurred for explosion it certainly was. It was heard at Fort Fisher from the direction of Smithville, and apparently from a point *beyond* that place, and beyond Caswell. One of the sentries on the wharf saw a light some short time before the concussion was felt.—The light was down the river in a direction a little West of South.

The shock was evidently caused by the explosion of a magazine or the blowing up of a ship with powder on board, either blockader or blockade-runner. It was no magazine on the river or at Fort Fisher, and from the direction of the sound as heard at the Fort, it was beyond Smithville or Fort Caswell. It may possibly have been from the vicinity of Lockwood's Folly beach, where some vessel may have been run ashore. We will probably hear definitely in the course of the day.

THE Fayetteville *Presbyterian* commenced its seventh volume last week. The *Presbyterian* is not only an able and worthy organ of the influential denomination whose name it bears, but, apart from its religious character, a well conducted and spirited journal. We are glad to see that it again appears upon a full sheet, and that it is well supported and bids fair to weather the storm.

FIRING.—We have heard firing nearly all the morning, appearing to come from the direction of the main bar. We suppose the Yankees are after some steamer. It is said there was firing yesterday, but we did not hear it.—*Daily Journal, 11th.*

WE are pretty much thrown upon our own resources for the materials wherewithal to make up a paper, which resources are bound to be developed to such an extent that soon we will not care ADAM THYNGE for exchanges or anything else. We will be independent of the blockade, and make our own thunder, or knock thunder out of something or other.

Yet it is troublesome in cold weather and fatiguing when it is hot; and, like the people that pretend to hail independence by means of the blockade, we care not how soon it is raised and we are put in communication with exchanges and correspondents. Scissors! Yes scissors are not only scissors, but they are "punkins," yea verily, "some punkins," that is, if your cotemporaries will only be good enough to bring you along something that you can compliment them by stealing. With due deference to them all we have not recently been severely tempted in that way. So ends this homily.

Seriously, we labor under some difficulties and hindrances, but do the best we can and no one can be expected to do better. All will come straight, we trust, and that soon.

GONE UP THE SPOUT.—The great Steamship Great Eastern is to be sold at auction by order of the mortgagees, at the sale rooms of Messrs. CUNARD, WILSON & Co., Liverpool.

We do not contemplate a voyage to Europe for the purpose of buying her in. She is too small for this trade being only 22,791 tons burthen, 679 feet in length, and 92 in breadth.

WE believe people used to say here that after three black frosts came rain. We have changed all that now. We have had as many black frosts this winter as the clerk of the weather has chosen to send, without having had them wiped out or washed off by either rain or thaw. Something is wrong.—*Daily Journal, 11th.*

The Explosion, etc.

It seems that the concussion Monday morning was occasioned by the burning of a Yankee gunboat which had grounded not far from the wreck of the Bendigo, near Lockwood's Folly Beach. At five o'clock yesterday morning the enemy set fire to her, not being able to get her off, and at half past five she blew up.

We regret to learn that on Sunday night the Steamship Ranger, from Bermuda, with valuable government stores, was beached about a mile and a half West of the Bendigo. She was set on fire by her crew. The enemy attempted to board but were driven off by the Coast Guard. The firing yesterday was probably over the Ranger.

The *Adair* met with an accident to her machinery while being chased by the blockaders, after having landed her passengers on the coast. Her officers were compelled to beach her. She was boarded by the enemy, who broke into the liquor they found on board, and all got drunk. Twenty-four of them were made prisoners by the crew and the coast guard, and turned over to the commander of the nearest post. All this occurred near Georgetown, S. C.

AT last it rains and thaws and is sloppy generally.—It don't seem as if this was an improvement. It is weather that tries men's soles pretty severely, and, with the tariff upon boots and shoes, it tries their pockets also. A Frenchman, or some other man, once demonstrated conclusively that the thing made was "more great as the maker," inasmuch as a cooper could make a barrel that could hold ever so many gallons of whiskey, whereas the cooper himself could not hold more than one little quart. We don't know but this reasoning will apply to the boot business. One man can make a pair of boots with *two* soles, whereas, judging from the awful price asked, one is led to doubt seriously whether the man himself has *any* soul. At least the buyer entertains such doubts—*some* buyers, at least.—Others have less scruple and vote in the negative without hesitation, which is painful.

For the Journal.
LUMBERTON, N. C., Jan. 4th, 1864.

EDS. JOURNAL: A communication has recently appeared in the columns of your paper which requires explanation on my part. The public cou'd not have been more astonished at the *contents* of the aforesaid communication than I was, and what I desire now is to *make the records speak the TRUTH*. I am reported as saying that I never refused to take Confederate money officially as Sheriff, (except under certain restrictions and instructions,) or in payment of my *own* dues *individually*. I never intended to convey the *latter* idea. I *have* refused to take Confederate money in payment of my *own* debts, but never in my *official capacity*, except when required by the Plaintiff in execution. I did not prepare the communication, and only heard it *hastily* read. I supposed that the reference to myself was merely *officially* and not *personally* made. And I may here state that I never would have consented for the publication of the article in question, except for the reason that I wished to enter my earnest protest to the charge that I had any interest in the matter of Spier Watters' celebrated case. The card of the plaintiff, in connexion with the property furnished him by the defendant in the execution, in lieu of Confederate money, places *that* matter at rest.—Those amongst whom I have so long lived, and who have so well known me, will, I know, bear me out, when I say, that the communication was *entirely* misunderstood by me. Promising hereafter to examine more *thoroughly* and *minutely* communications furnished for publication under *my* signature either *officially* or *otherwise*.

I remain, yours truly,
R. KING.

We are fully as much astonished as anybody can be, still we refrain from any remarks beyond what may be necessary to explain our own course in the premises.

The communication referred to was written by a gentleman (Rev. James Sinclair,) who had in a previous communication, on the same subject, stated that he was a near neighbor of Mr. King's, and was therefore supposed to be cognizant of the facts. It was also vouched for in a private note from this gentleman as embodying Mr. King's views, and as using Mr. King's name and signature with his knowledge and consent. These things are stated to show that we inserted the communication or "card" bearing the signature of Mr. KING, in all good faith. This we did the more readily, as a brief paragraph upon the subject had appeared in the *Journal* some time previous, and we deemed the insertion of the "card" an act of justice to Mr. KING.

We may here remark that we were very soon convinced, from private information, of the fact that there must be some mistake about this "card," and still farther convinced by receiving since the first instant a communication accompanied by the following:

LUMBERTON, Jan. 1st, 1864.

Having seen in a late issue of the Wilmington Journal the card of "R. King, Sheriff of Robeson county, N. C.," in which he endeavors to exonerate himself from the charge of refusing Confederate money, and says he "always receives it in payment of debts due to himself, &c," we, the undersigned, wish to disprove the statement of said King, for the vindication of truth, and "for the information of the public," by charging that he has heretofore refused said money, and has done so in a number of instances this day in the face of his disclaimer, and in so doing we leave it to the public to draw its own conclusion:

NAMES.
A. W. FULLER,
T. N. BOND,
D. D. FRENCH,
M. T. SEALY,
JOSEPH THOMPSON,
A. LAWSON,
C. GODWIN,
W. A. DICK,
J. J. SELLERS,
W. FOSTER FRENCH,
H. T. POPE,
F. WARD,
J. MOORE,
A. J. THOMPSON.

At the time, we deferred the publication of this and of the accompanying communication, supposing that a few days would clear the matter up, and anxious, besides, to avoid the publication of anything calculated either to create ill-feeling, or to increase such feeling if already existing. We now state simply what is necessary to explain our own course, forbearing all remark about the mistake occurring, leaving *that* to be arranged among those who may be supposed to understand it best. We trust we have done with the matter, and that in future no such mistakes will occur.

The Southern Express Company.

The Atlanta Appeal speaks thus of the Southern Express Company:

Within the past three years we have necessarily had many dealings with the Southern Express, and have never failed to find the agents attentive and accommodating.—Amid the present confusion created by the war, it seems to have become a necessity which it would be extremely difficult and prejudicial to dispense with.

The Augusta Chronicle says: This is a deserved compliment. The Company well merit all that has been said in their favor. It has become an indispensable institution.—Without it, it would be impossible for the business portion of the community, as well as others, to get along. Much censure has been bestowed upon the officers by those who are not acquainted with the immense and almost insurmountable difficulties they have to contend with. But it is both undeserved and unjust. Instead of being blamed and abused, they should be praised for their untiring energy.—There is no greater public convenience now existing than the Southern Express Company. Long may it flourish.

So far as our own experience goes we have nothing to complain of so far as the Express is concerned, but, on the contrary, have found its agents prompt, clever and obliging. To be sure its rates are pretty *steep*, but what is *not* steep in these rare and difficult times?

It requires a man with no small amount of energy to get through with the business that devolves on the office at this place at times, but Mr. MACOMBER seems to go along cheerfully and in good humor. The disorganized state of things since the war commenced, and no doubt occasioned by the war, throws a large amount and class of business upon the Express that does not properly belong to it. Originally intended for parcels, and such matters, it now carries all manner of freight, for the reason that otherwise persons feel no assurance of things sent going in time, or at all, if they have to go over more than one road. This, with the expense which it entails, is chargeable to the disorganization of our railroad system, and not to the express.

THE Raleigh *Standard* says that the administration presses of this State, and among them the Wilmington *Journal*, are doing sundry things. If, instead of charging such things upon the Wilmington *Journal*, the *Standard* would only let its readers see what the Wilmington *Journal* actually says, then we feel convinced that no misunderstanding could occur. But the *Standard* has done and *will* do no such thing. We are free to admit that the *Journal* has its faults, as all men and all papers have, but the *Standard knows* that in all respects it is emphatically a *free* press, owned by nobody but the men whose names appear at its head, and has its thinking done in the little room where this is written, and by the person by whom this is written, always with a full understanding between him and his partner and associate.

THE SUBJECT OF A TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT, is the popular phrase used by those whom recent laws compel to go into the military service to defend their own rights and the rights of their country. A tyrannical government because, after taking it, it calls upon B! Well, perhaps so, but other people will not see the point or not in the same light.

One gentleman corresponding with the Raleigh *Standard*, thinks it awful that a minister of the gospel should be conscripted as a *private*, while he holds himself ready, and thinks it all right, that he should go as a *Colonel*. Is a colonel more holy than a private? Is humility unbecoming the ministerial character? He that humbleth himself shall be exalted, saith the Scripture.

WE had almost forgotten it, or perhaps had never thought about the matter, but our exchanges inform us that this is leap year, so that a modest man like unto the present writer has a sort of chance once in a way. No knowing what might happen in this wet weather.

They say—who *they* are, we do not know,—but *they* say that on this year the ladies have the right to take the initiative. Whether they ever avail themselves of this [illegible] we do not know. We have not heard of any single gentleman having been carried off *vi et armis* save and except in cases where Captain SWANN, the enrolling officer, has been the pertinacious wooer. He, albeit a quiet man, hath a taking way with him, and is more irresistible than Venus herself, with all her charms.

The Raleigh *Standard*, speaking of the appointment of Hon. George Davis as Attorney General, says:

Mr. Davis was elected to the Senate as a Destructive, and the present Legislature declined to re-elect him on that account, and filled his place with the Hon. William A. Graham, a tried Conservative. And he was appointed to his present place by the President *because* he is a Destructive, and *because* he was rejected by the Conservative Legislature of North Carolina.

The *Standard* is entirely mistaken. The President appointed Mr. Davis because, in the first place, he is capable and competent, and in the second place, because he was recommended and his appointment requested by Hon. William A. Graham, and other prominent men of both the old parties in this State. If the *Standard* is determined to find fault with every act of the President, we suppose it will consider Mr. Graham's recommendation all right. We repeat, the appointment of Mr. Davis by the President as Attorney General was recommended by William A. Graham and almost every member of the "Conservative Legislature."

We cut the above from the Charlotte *Democrat*, a paper which is habitually cautious in regard to its statements. It places Mr. GRAHAM in a position we are glad to hail. *How* it places the *Standard*, the reader can judge.

"WORRELL," the Wilmington correspondent of the Raleigh *Standard*, under date of the 9th inst., seems to be very much worried about the action of Congress relative to the repeal of the substitute law, and thinks, feelingly, no doubt, everybody else *feels* as he does. We have never heard of our "soldiers here" being "almost unanimously opposed to" the repeal of the law, as *Worrell* asserts, and we do not believe they are. Neither have we heard of the soldiers in these parts "evincing a feeling of uneasiness and dissatisfaction towards the Administration." Perhaps *Worrell's* corns hurt him—sorely.

For the Journal.
GORDON'S BRIGADE,
ARMY OF NORTHERN VA.

At a meeting of Co. C, 63d N. C. T., held Jan. 4th, 1864, in order to draft resolutions concerning the deaths of privates Jas. R. Tatum and B. F. Pugh, who were killed in the battles of Hagerstown, Maryland, the following were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in them the Company has sustained an irreparable loss, the Confederacy two good and brave soldiers, and our country two of its brightest ornaments.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathies to the bereft families of the deceased, and say to them that their sons died in a glorious cause.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the families of the deceased, also to the Wilmington Journal, with request for publication.

H. R. REGISTER,
A. B. PARKER, } Committee.
T. O. BUNTING,

THE WRIGHT FUND.—We have been requested to state that R. R. Hill, Esq., (of Petersburg,) at Martin, Tannahill & Co.'s, will act as Treasurer of the Wright Fund. All persons having money designed for this fund will please remit to R. R. Hill, Esq., Petersburg, Va. The papers in the Confederacy are respectfully requested to copy this notice.

TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 9th, 1864.

No firing of consequence to-day. The Yankees are still at work upon their batteries. The position of the fleet is unchanged.

LATER FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 10th, 1864.

Eighteen shells were thrown into the city at intervals of half hours, last night, and twenty eight this afternoon, between three and five o'clock. Nobody hurt. No other news of interest. The shelling was renewed at eight this evening.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 11th, 1864.

Three shells this morning and six this afternoon, were fired at the city. Nobody hurt. Some firing was heard in the direction of Light House Inlet, believed to be our batteries opening on the enemy on Black Island. Nine shells were fired yesterday afternoon from a 30-pounder on Sumter. Seven struck. The fleet was quiet.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, January 12, 1864.

The enemy have kept up a continuous shelling of the city since last night, and are still shelling at 7 o'clock P. M. Shells thrown are 100 pounders, and Wiard small rifle projectiles. No casualties. No movements by the fleet.

Twenty-four Yankee prisoners, captured near Georgetown, are expected here to-night.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, January 9th, 1864.

In the House this morning the bill to place in service citizens of the United States and foreign countries, was taken up, and, after considerable discussion, was referred back to the committee, with instructions to report a bill allowing those claiming alienage time to leave the country, and, on failure to leave, to go into the army. Yeas 37, nays 29.

A communication from Gen. Wise, addressed to the Virginia Legislature, was read in the House, in which he endorses, without reserve, the memorial of Gen. Hardee, and other officers of the Tennessee army. He says that, from nearly three years experience in the army, he cordially unites in recommending so wise a policy, and protests against reorganization by election. He thinks the elective system bad, and the officers who were appointed better able to command than those elected, and that many of our delays and disasters are justly chargeable to the elections in the spring of 1862. What we most want is a thorough reform in the army, from the departments down to the pickets, and especially in the commissary, quartermaster, ordnance and medical departments. The House adopted a joint resolution in relation to the war, declaring that we are engaged in a struggle for the preservation of liberty and civilization, and no sacrifice of life or fortune can be too costly to secure these blessings to posterity; that in the judgment of Congress our resources, if developed with energy and husbanded with care, and applied with fidelity, are more than sufficient to support the most protracted war, and exhorts the people by every consideration which can influence freemen and patriots, to a generous support of the Government in the legitimate exercise of all constitutional powers. A vote was taken by yeas and nays, and it was adopted unanimously.

The President sent several communications to the House concerning the reports of Generals and correspondence and orders with them.

Nothing important in the Senate. Both houses were in secret session most of the day.

SALES OF STOCKS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 9th, 1863.

At the auction sale yesterday Confederate eights, long date, brought 112 to 117; 7 per cents par. The fifteen million loan coupons 183; Cotton loan bonds 166. All bonds and stocks sold at full prices.

FROM MOSBY'S COMMAND—YANKEE BOUNTIES.

ORANGE C. H., Jan. 10th, 1864.

Seven prisoners, captured by Mosby's men, near Warrenton, on the 7th inst., were sent in here to-day. Our men got at the same time ten horses and mules, besides the arms and equipments of those captured. The three years men in the Yankee army, who re-enlist, are getting a bounty ranging from eight hundred to one thousand dollars to each man. The enemy are using Culpeper Court House building and the Baptist Church as stables.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE—SNOW—CAPTURE OF 300 YANKEES.

RUSSELLVILLE, TENN., Jan. 9, 1863.

A heavy snow fell on the night of the 7th. The telegraph lines were down eastward on yesterday. Gen. W. E. Jones attacked a force of the enemy 300 strong at Jonesville on the third, killing, wounding and capturing the entire party, together with three pieces of artillery, and 20 wagons and trains.

MOSBY AGAIN AFTER THE YANKEES.

ORANGE C. H., Jan. 11th, 1864.

Mosby attacked the picket post of the enemy near Warrenton on Wednesday night, capturing eighteen prisoners and killing and wounding eighteen or twenty more, and bringing off forty horses, and all of the arms and equipments. Mosby lost none in killed or wounded.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 11, 1864.

Efforts have been made in the House to have the tax and currency bills debated in open session, but so far without success. The President's veto of the bill to place one million dollars in the hands of the Provisional Government of Kentucky, to clothe the Kentucky soldiers, is subject to some comment. A bill was passed on the 19th January, 1862, appropriating two millions of dollars to aid in raising troops in Kentucky before they were mustered into service, which appropriation has not been expended. The bill which the President has just vetoed diverts one million of that appropriation to clothe the Kentucky soldiers. The President objects, because it directs the expenditure to be made by other than bonded officers of the Government, and employs two sets of agents to do the same duty, who will be bidders against each other in the market. A motion was made in the Senate to-day to pass the bill over the veto; yeas ten, nays eight—not two-thirds as required by the Constitution. The Senate adopted a resolution that a joint committee of both houses prepare and publish an address to the country; the House has heretofore adopted the same.

In the House this morning the Speaker presented the resolutions passed by the Legislature of Georgia, declaring that that State would never submit to reconstruction or Yankee affiliation on any terms. They were read and ordered to be printed. Authority was granted the committee to investigate the Federal outrages in North Carolina, to send for persons and papers. The bill reported by the military committee some time ago to repeal the exemption law, was taken up and referred back to the committee; yeas 32, nays 24. The House was in open session only about an hour.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, January 11th, 1864.

The Adjutant General has issued orders for the enrollment, as rapidly as possible of persons made liable to military duty by the recent acts of Congress. They are required to report as volunteers or conscripts without delay; all who delay beyond the first of February being considered as having renounced the privilege of volunteering, and will be held for assignment according to law. Previous to enrollment as conscripts, all such persons will be allowed to volunteer in companies that were in service on the 16th April, 1862, provided the company chosen does not reach the maximum, but must not be received except on the certificate of the enrolling officer that they have so volunteered. Persons who report to the enrolling officer may be allowed a furlough of ten days before reporting to the camp of instruction. All exemptions heretofore granted are subject to revision, under instructions from the Bureau of Conscription.

The report of the removal of Butler from the command of the Department of North Carolina is not credited.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 12th, 1864.

In the House this morning the reports of the Superintendent of Conscription was presented, showing the number of officers and soldiers engaged in executing the conscript law in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. In Virginia four Colonels, eight Majors, twenty-three Captains, sixty-five Lieutenants, thirty-one Physicians, and one hundred and seven soldiers. In North Carolina—forty-seven commissioned officers, fourteen soldiers, and seven hundred and fifty mounted men. In South Carolina—sixty four officers and one hundred and forty-one men. In Georgia—sixty-eight officers and two hundred and eight men, besides Lee's battalion of Rangers, consisting of thirty officers and four hundred and fifty five men. The duties of the Conscript Bureau, besides enrolling Conscripts, extends to the arresting and returning deserters and absentees, the number of whom is now very great, and the matters of furloughs amounts to thirteen thousand. A bill to allow Chaplains to draw the rations of soldiers, and those who have a horse to draw forage for the same, was passed. A resolution was adopted that a special committee of five be appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the employment for the army of a share of the pork and bacon held by persons in the country who have a full year's supply.—Prices for the same to be agreed upon between the parties, or ascertained by local appeal. Three bills, introduced to pay for the horses killed, captured, or permanently disabled in service, were ordered to be printed. A resolution was adopted calling on the President for the names of persons authorized to raise Companies or Battalions for re-organization since the 27th September, or in sections where conscription was not suspended, and the number of men named. The resolution submitted by the Committee on Elections, to inquire into the expediency of allowing the Maryland soldiers to elect a delegate to Congress, was lost. The Senate adopted a resolution calling on the President for Bragg's report of the battle of Chickamauga. A bill was passed to allow officers of the Navy to draw rations and fuel. The Senate passed a bill fixing the first Monday in May next for the next Congress to assemble. The House adjourned to meet to-night at seven o'clock.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Jan. 12, 1864.

A large number of negroes have escaped from the Yankees at Yorktown, and returned to their owners in Gloucester and King William counties.

The Fredericksburg correspondent of the Examiner says: A late file of Northern papers exhibits a more unanimous and determined spirit favoring the prosecution of the war than heretofore perceptible.

Lincoln held a grand levee on New Year's day, at which four negroes of genteel exterior were present. They were cordially received by Lincoln.

Grant has submitted a plan for the spring campaign, which contemplates the concentration of nearly all the Union forces against Richmond. The approach to be made in three columns. The plan is said to have the signal approval of Lincoln.

No signs of the flag of truce boat.

Several distinguished generals, including Gen. Breckinridge, are here.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

ORANGE, C. H., Jan. 12th, 1864.

All quiet in front. No change in the enemy's lines or camps. Mosby is still harrassing the enemy's rear. Two more prisoners were sent in by him this morning.

Gen. Morgan's Visit to the Libby Prison.

On Saturday, the city's guest, General John H. Morgan, escorted by His Honor, Joseph Mayo, Mayor of Richmond, Acting Adjutant General R. A. Alston, Mr. Bruce, M. C., from Kentucky, and a number of others, paid a visit to the Libby prison, where an opportunity was afforded them of inspecting that famous receptacle of Union sentiment and the parties who give it vitality. These, in round numbers, foot up considerably over a thousand—an aggregate sufficient to make a most respectable regiment, so far as mere numbers are concerned. Gen. Morgan and party arrived at the prison about 11 o'clock, and, on making their wishes known, were immediately conducted on a tour of inspection. General Morgan, on arriving up stairs, where the prisoners "most do congregate," was immediately conducted into the presence of the "author of the Maine Liquor Law," the whilom Brigadier General Neal Dow. An introduction took place, when Morgan observed, with one of those inimitable smiles for which he is so noted, "General Dow, I am very happy to see you here; or, rather I should say, since you are here, I am happy to see you looking so well." Dow's natural astuteness and Yankee ingenuity came to his aid, and he quickly replied, without apparent embarrassment, "General Morgan, I congratulate you on your escape; I cannot say that I am glad that you did escape, but since you did, I am pleased to see you here." The conversation then became general between the two, during the progress of which Dow admitted that his views of the South, its people and their treatment of prisoners of war had undergone a material change for the better in the last few months.

Gen Morgan also had an interview with the notorious Col. Streight, who had several days previous to his visit, been released from close confinement for attempting to escape from prison, and restored to his old place amongst the other officers. It has been conjectured, by persons wise in reading the motives of men by their actions, that this man hoped, on his entrance into the prison, by taking the most ultra position on the questions dividing the North and South, to become the leader and host of his fellow captives. If such was his desire, he has most signally failed, as it is known that he is by no means popular amongst them; "on the contrary, quite the reverse." Streight is a tall, raw-boned, broad-chested; sandy-haired, big-whiskered, uncouth looking man with arms swinging like the wings of a windmill in the doldrums. He has acquired a considerable quantity of disjointed information on a variety of topics, while pasturing the literary fields of Yankee land. Knowing a little of everything and not much of anything, has made him a free thinker and ready adherent of all the isms peculiar to his section. He does not, it is said, believe in a God or Devil, which is not at all wonderful, considering the locality from which he hails. Gen. Morgan said to Streight, in his interview with that individual that it was his desire to ameliorate the condition of all the prisoners in our hands, and he would do so as far as lay in his power, despite the fact that some of his own men had been tied up by their thumbs and subjected to other cruelties abhorrent to human nature for endeavoring to escape. The interview between the two seemed to be mutually satisfactory. If the sketch we have drawn of Streight presents that individual in an unamiable attitude, he has only himself to blame for it. *All* of the officers in the Libby cannot be placed in the same category as himself—it would be surprising if they could. There are many of them persons of education and refinement, and who, under a different state of affairs, would display those kindlier impulses that dignify and adorn human nature, even in its most depraved state. Even in these modern times, we may readily conceive that there is such a thing as a passably good man being moved and seduced by the devil."—Hardly any one will deny that the upholders of Abe Lincoln have been operated on by the gentleman in black.

While the majority of the prisoners seemed gratified at the visit of Morgan, and all pleased at his personal appearance, so different from what their imaginations had depicted, the Kentucky officers expressed the most unqualified delight at seeing the favorite son of their own State. They expressed themselves openly, not only as delighted to see him, but delighted also that he had escaped from prison and was once more at liberty. Some of the expressions used by the Kentucky Yankees elicited the decided disapprobation of their wooden nutmeg compatriots; but nothing could repress the expression of genuine Kentucky feelings on the part of the Federal officers from that State towards "the great bandit."

While at the Libby General Morgan visited the hospital attached to the prison, and gave high praise to Surgeon Wilkins and his co-laborers for their efficient conduct. The General said the hospitals were *all* that could be desired, and kept in true military style.

The only drawback to the pleasant reflections induced by their visit was the existence of a fact which unconsciously leaked out during its progress. On several occasions lately, owing to the inefficiency and want of industry or attention on the part of the quartermaster charged with the duty of furnishing fuel for the use of the Libby, the imprisoned officers have stood shivering for days in the cold. On Christmas day it appears the Yankees went dinnerless because there was no wood to cook their food. A few days thereafter the dinner tables used by the officers were consumed for fuel to cook their food with. Doubtless an inquiry would show that the officers and guards of the prison were no better off. This state of affairs should not exist. The wood is here, and a little industry would make it available. The party to blame in the matter should be stirred up with a particularly long pole.

Richmond Enquirer.

The Rebel Steamer at Calais.

It is announced that the custom house authorities at Calais had received instructions to allow the rebel steamer Rappahannock to leave whenever her Captain might think fit to depart. It appears that the Rappahannock was formerly Her Brittanic Majesty's steam sloop Victor, and was recently sold with three others to private parties. Three other steamers were likewise reported to be fitting out for rebel privateers on the Thames. The Victor, or Rappahannock, is upwards of 1,000 tons burden, built of wood, with engines of 300 horse power.

The London Times says:

"When the Admiralty sold the Victor, it was stated that she was intended for the China trade, and she was ostensibly fitted out with that view, while her name was changed to Scylla, of London. Several suspicious circumstances, however, occurred, and the dock-yard officials felt it their duty to make a report to the Admiralty. The result was the receipt of an order at Shearness directing her to be stopped. The order, however, arrived a few hours too late. Those in charge of the vessel evidently suspected the intention of the Government, and had her taken out of the harbor a few nights since. She immediately afterwards hoisted the Confederate flag. She is of 350 horse power, but owing to some slight defect in the construction of her engines and machinery, her rate of steaming was never very high, which was the principal reason for the Admiralty directing her to be sold. A special report has been made to the Lord of the Admiralty of the circumstances under which she left Shearness dock yard."

A letter from Calais contains the following respecting the Rappahannock:

"This steamer was in the roadstead from midnight, waiting to receive on board fifteen young Americans, who have been residing here for more than two months to serve as officers. These officers had embarked on board a fishing boat, which they had hired to convey them to Boulogne, as they told the master, in order to conceal their project and avoid the police. When once they were outside the port, however, they ordered him to put them on board a vessel from which rockets were being fired, which was the signal agreed upon.—The master of the boat, in alarm, called for assistance from other boats near him, and with their help he sailed into port, where he landed his passengers, who were much annoyed at what had occurred.

The Rappahannock has been purchased for the Confederate Government; she was an English vessel undergoing repairs at Shearness. She left that port under pretence of trying her machinery, and taking with her as crew the mechanics and shipcarpenters who were at work on board. Once at sea the English flag was replaced by that of the Southern States. She has not yet any guns on board, but is pierced for eight heavy guns. Her repairs are, it is thought, about to be completed at Calais." It is reported that a part of her crew have arrived by steamer from Dover. A private letter from Hull, dated November 27, and published in the Daily News, says:

"There was a prize vessel got away from here some days back. She was an undoubted 'ram,' with masts fitted to lower on the deck and telescope funnel. She was launched with steam up, and came alongside the West pier. Two cabs full of Southern looking gentlemen drove down and went on board, and she was off like a shot. Every one was taken by surprise."

THE FLOOD.—We hear almost hourly of disasters by the late heavy rains, and we fear that the half has not yet been told of the injuries sustained.

The Cotton Factories in this city have been compelled to suspend operations by the height of the water in the river, which, considering the destitute state of the country, we think the most general and serious disaster yet reported.

The Muscogee Railroad received such damage by breaks at two or three points as to cause the failure of the mails, coming and going, on Friday morning. We learned yesterday that it was supposed the connection would again be made last night.

The Girard Railroad, we learn, is much damaged by the flood at Uchee creek and other places. The train due here yesterday failed to make the connection, and no mail could be sent off by that route yesterday afternoon.

The Telegraph lines were down from Thursday evening to Friday evening.

The bridge over the creek on the Crawford road, just beyond Girard, was entirely submerged. One of the cross beams was washed out, and the flooring was torn off so as to render passage impossible to any but foot travelers until repairs are made.

The river was high yesterday, but lacked eight or ten feet of the extraordinary high water of winter before last. When we last heard from it, the river was considered as at a stand Enquirer.—*Columbus Enquirer.*

THE BLOCKADE—THE COTTON QUESTION AGAIN.—It is understood that measures have been recently, and very positively, recommended to Congress to take the private cotton in the Confederacy. The particular necessity of this measure is said to be that the Government cannot carry on its European trade (which, in fact, has grown to be so large and important that the organization of a separate bureau, attached to the War Department, has been recommended to conduct it,) at the present ruinous rates of freight and exchange in Confederate money. So excessive have become the rates of freight and exchange that, on calculation, it was found that the mere charge, independent of the cost of the cargo, for the freightage of a steamer of three hundred tons, from the West India Islands to one of our ports, were to the Government upwards of two millins of dollars in its currency. Under these circumstances, the Department has not hesitated to inaugurate the plain policy of evading the blockade with steamers purchased and run by its officers.

With the additional steamers, which the contracts with the Government, or the temptations of private gains has brought into the trade, it is believed that the blockade may be evaded, so far as to add greatly to our resources abroad from the exportation of cotton, and to bring in the supplies needed by the Government.

Richmond Examiner.

John H. Morgan Safe!

Correspondence of the Asheville News.

Franklin, N. C., Dec. 21st, 1863.

Dear sir—Very much to the surprise of every body Gen John H Morgan came to our village last Saturday evening, the 19th inst. We were all in doubt as to his identity, until some of his men, who were in this county, came in and recognized him. *It was his identical self.*

It may not be prudent to tell all he has seen nor to intimate where he was going. Suffice it to say that he rode on the Rail Road from Columbus, Ohio, to Cincinnati; crossed the river there, came through Kentucky, crossed through Tennessee, and landed here avowing that Providence had safely brought him through. The treatment he met with while in prison has not softened his feelings towards the Yankees. The time will soon come when their violence will be visited on their own pates.

May John Morgan live to pay the Yankees well for their cruelty and inhuman conduct, and may he be permitted to enjoy his old home in quiet, with the Confederate flag proudly floating over it! And more than this may Jeff Davis soon make him commander of all the Western cavalry, and send him on his misson of war to the Yankee land!

In haste, yours,
L. F. SILER.

OPINION IN EDINBURG CONCERNING OUR CAUSE.—By permission of a clergyman in Richmond, the Central Presbyterian has made the following extract from a letter just received from a friend in Edinburg. The position and intelligence of this gentleman entitles his statement to the utmost confidence. And if the public sentiment of Edinburg is so favorable to us, there is no reason to suspect it is much otherwise throughout the kingdom. He says:

"I earnestly hope that this horrible war will soon come to an end, and that it will end by the South getting its independence; for it is a most monstrous doctrine that if nearly half a continent, which the South may be said to be, wishes to be its own master, the other half has the right to say no, and enforce its doctrine by fire and sword. Such is my view of the case; and those in this city, I may tell you, who are of the opposite opinion, are but few and far between. So few, I don't believe, were they all put together, they could fill a decent sized pew in a church. We have but one newspaper too, that is the advocate of the North, and it does so only because it is under the inspiration of a near relative of the celebrated John Bright; and you know a little about his views on American affairs and politics."

A BATTLE-SCARRED HERO.—General James H. Lane, aged twenty eight years, volunteered April 28th, 1861, from Charlotte, N. C., and was commissioned Colonel, Sept. 21st, 1861. He was wounded at the battles of Frazier's Farm and Cold Harbor; was in the battles of Big Bethel, Hanover Courthouse, Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, Frazier's Farm, Malvern Hill, Cedar Run, Warrenton Springs, Manassas Junction, Manassas Plains, Ox Hill, Harper's Ferry, Sharpsburg and Shepardstown. He took command of the Brigade after the fall of Gen. Branch, and for his good discipline, gallantry and soldier-like conduct through all the campaigns, he was promoted to the command of the Brigade November 1st, 1862, with the rank of Brigadier General.

A large supply of shoes and blankets has been forwarded to Gen. Longstreet's army, of which a great many of his soldiers stand much in need.—*Lynchburg Republican, 9th inst.*

From the London Punch.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CZAR; OR ABRAHAM AND ALEXANDER.

"Formosum pastor Lincoln ardebat Alexim."

President Abe Czar Alexander loved,
"Mankind's Delight," nor were his hopes reproved:
Both sovereign potentates, both despots, too,
Both with a great rebellion to subdue.
Alike prepared to [illegible] to reply,
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] army would be a new machine by the passage of such a law, and every man here would then exert himself to be a hero in the strife. Shame upon Congress, that thus far there has been no such legislation, and eternal honor to our glorious dead, who sleep in neglected private graves, and our brave and faithful soldiers that, though their country has never remembered them, yet they have never forgotten or been recreant to their country. "Better late than never," would be a good motto for Congress. Let them order from this time forth a system of rewards and medals, that when the strife of battle is o'er, in his rags and his poverty, may point to the proofs of his patriotism and valor, and tell his children, though I leave you penniless in money, you are yet rich in the legacy of patriotic self-sacrifice which your ancestry endured. But I would go a step farther. There are in this army, I should suppose, not less than four thousand able-bodied white men, capable of making excellent soldiers who are acting as teamsters and drivers. Why cannot the places of these men be filled by colored persons and these whites restored to their commands for the duties of the field? I am satisfied if these suggestions are observed and the substitute law is rigidly enforced, that this army of Northern Virginia will be strong enough in the coming spring for any work that it may be legitimately expected to accomplish. Officers who have served in the army of Tennessee tell me that all I have said in this particular applies with equal force to that army.

I cannot believe that there is a necessity for taking the men above fifty, or the boys under eighteen, to swell the ranks of our regular army, because I am satisfied that the present conscript law, if properly enforced, will give us a sufficiency of men; and as for a "reserved" force, it means nothing else than harassing the people of the State without any practical good results, whilst the withdrawal of so large a force of labor, and superintendence of labor, at such a time as the planting season, may seriously impair our prospects for summer and fall crops; and to take from the schools the boys under eighteen will be practically to close the school houses, and to bring up in grossest ignorance the rising generation—the future occupiers and rulers of the soil. Another remark, and I have done. Three years of this war are practically at an end, and we are stronger, relatively, in men under arms, than we have ever been, whilst the North is comparatively weaker in soldiers; but it cannot be denied, I think, that bread and meat is scarcer than at the beginning of the war. Does not common sense, then, teach that we should husband our resources of men and stimulate production? This year may be the last of the war. If so God be praised and thanked; but, if it should not be let us forecast and ask what must be our condition if a sweeping army bill is passed? Let us not, in a fit of passion, or in order to reach a few, so legislate as to injure the whole, but rather let us rely upon wise laws, and their right administration, sanctioned by Heaven for success, than to spasmodic and class legislation, to carry us through the perils that environ us.

One word more and I have done, for I shall submit no observations of the currency for the reason that I am not enough of a financier to say anything that would be valuable. That closing remark is this: I beg Congress to make no effort to disturb the present organization of the army. If they should, my word for it, the consequences will be disastrously fatal. In some instances, changes could be made for the better, but taken as a whole this army could not be better officered than it is. My own impression is that, whilst a few discontented spirits here and there may desire a change, the army will be satisfied with its present organization. The sooner Congress passes the military bill the better. It will end speculation as to its action, and all will know what they will have to rely upon. N.

The Recent Expedition of the Enemy to Elizabeth City, N. C.

That Beast Butler had organized an expedition of negro troops into Elizabeth City, N. C., has been announced. It appears that the Beast selected a fit representative to command the expedition. The Raleigh (N. C.) Journal says:

The expedition was commanded by Brigadier General Wilde, and consisted of two regiments of negroes, one of which was commanded by Ex-Governor Todd, of Ohio.—They landed at Elizabeth City on Friday, 18th ult., and spent some eight days before they returned, during which they destroyed ten buildings in the counties of Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck, and outraged and plundered the people in the most heartless manner. Whilst in Elizabeth City the officers were all quartered on the most respectable families, indiscriminately (the commissioned officers being white, the non-commissioned black,) and did not pay a dollar for anything they received. In most cases they compelled the white ladies to cook and wash for them.—Reporting at Wilde's headquarters daily, they were questioned to know if they had been treated as "gentlemen," and particularly if any of the male members of the families they were quartered on held secession doctrine.

On the streets the ladies of the place were jostled by the negro troops, and had to permit them to walk by their side and converse with them, on pain of arrest and punishment for insulting "United States troops!" Any information laid by a negro against man or woman was received as conclusive evidence and brought swift punishment upon the alleged offender. The negro ran riot during the Yankee stay in the Albemarle country.

The commands of Captain T. J. Elliott, 66th North Carolina Troops, and of Captain Sandlin, came up with those villains twice, and succeeded in killing some forty to fifty of them, and wounding many more. They fled like wild deer on being fired upon, and were shot as they ran. A bright mulatto was captured and mistaken for a white man and sent as a prisoner to Richmond by Captain Elliott.—On learning this General Wilde seized three ladies, one a relative of Capt. Elliott, and ironed them and took them off, notifying Captain Elliott that if his negro soldier was hanged he would hang the ladies. Captain Elliott replied that he would do his duty unawed by the General's threat. With these helpless women a number of men were also captured. All of them were kept confined in the garret story of a house in Elizabeth City, in one room, the women being made to cook for the men, and this for several days.

One of Colonel J. R. Griffin's men, 62d Georgia Cavalry, was captured, and on the bare statement of a negro, was hanged by General Wilde as a guerilla. This murder was ordered and witnessed by Wilde. On the Yankee retreat he was taken, with the other prisoners, as far as Hinton's Cross Roads, and there, in the presence of the women and the negro troops, he was hanged from a cross beam of an old house, where his remains were found forty-four hours afterwards by his Colonel, and buried with military honors. On the back of the murdered soldier was a label with the following words:

"Here hangs a guerilla of Pasquotank county, Daniel Bright, by order of Brig. Gen. Wilde."

The unfortunate man's name was Daniel Bright, Co. L, 62d Georgia Cavalry.

We are indebted to Governor Vance for the following letters from Wilde to Captains Elliot and Sanderlin, which show the brutal character of the wretch who penned them. Even if they had the right to use negroes as soldiers, which we deny, who ever heard of ladies being held as hostages for soldiers captured by an enemy:

[Copy.]
NORTHWEST LANDING, VA.,
Tuesday, December 22, 1863.

To Willis Sanderlin, Capt. of Guerillas:

Sir: I hold Major Gregory as hostage for the colored soldier captured near Shiloh. I shall treat him exactly as your people treat that soldier. If they hang him, I shall hang Major Gregory; and you know by this time that I keep my word.

If it [illegible] not to Deep Creek Village, at the end of Dismal Swamp Canal, and Major Gregory shall be at once restored.

(Signed) EDWARD A. WILDE,
Brig. Gen. Vols.

Major Gregory is an old man not in service.

[Copy.]
ELIZABETH CITY, Dec. 17, 1863.

To John T. Elliott, Captain of Guerillas:

Sir: I still hold in custody Mrs. Mundon and Mrs. Weeks as hostages for the colored soldier taken by you.—As he is treated so shall they be, even to hanging. By this time you know that I am in earnest. Guerillas are to be treated as pirates. You will never have rest until you renounce your present course or join the regular Confederate army.

(Signed) EDWARD A. WILDE,
Brig. Gen. Vols.

Any day that you will send your colored prisoner to Deep Creek Village, at the terminus of Dismal Swamp Canal, you will find these women returned there the next day. This is on the faith of one who keeps his word.

(Signed) EDW'D A. WILDE,
Brig. Gen. Vols.

These ladies were kept in handcuffs until taken to Norfolk, where they are kept in jail.

They were guarded by negroes, who never left them under any circumstances.

We have not space to narrate the many heartless cases of cruelty perpetrated by these fiends. One or two cases will suffice as examples. They entered the house occupied by the wife of Capt. Elliott's Quartermaster. As the poor woman sat at the fire she saw them deliberately cut a hole in the middle of the floor and build a fire therein to consume her house over her. She asked them if they could do that. They replied that they could, and would. "Then burn," was the lady's patriotic response, "but I'll be a stronger Confederate than ever." A little before daylight the woman's husband returned and found his wife and four children huddled together in the corner of a fence in sight of the ashes of her late home!

In one other case they fired a residence without giving any notice to the sleeping inhabitants, who were saved from death only by the timely waking up of a faithful slave.

CAMP MORGAN, FLORIDA, Dec. 29.—A squad of five men from Keyser's company, Clanton's 6th Alabama Cavalry, captured last week a Yankee schooner of forty tons burthen, in Escambia Bay. Sergt. Whitmire, with four men, watched their opportunity, and while the crew were ashore, rowed up, captured the guard with but slight resistance, beached the vessel, and after appropriating the cargo burned her. The Yankees about here lie very close, but whenever an opportunity offers Clanton's men will always perform such feats.

DECIDEDLY COOL.—A Wheeling, Va., paper tells the annexed decidedly cool incident:

One of our city physicians has for some time past been attending a young girl who has been sadly deranged.—Yesterday, to see what effect it would have, he poured about a pint of water upon her head. The girl was then permitted to go into another room, where she conducted herself very quietly. The doctor was about leaving the house, when the girl, who was standing in the door of the room, beckoned for him to come to her. She stepped back into the room, and, as the doctor was about to come in, she threw a bucket of water upon him, remarking that his face needed washing as much as hers did.

CAMP DETACHMENT, 3D N. C. CAVALRY,
Near Greenville, N. C., Jan. 8, 1864.

MESSRS EDITORS:—Having seen several statements of the late skirmish below Greenville, on the South side of the Tar, all of which are incorrect, especially those written by a "Kinston correspondent" of the Raleigh papers, I deem it a duty in justice to Major Moore and his command to give the true particulars of the affair.

On the night of the 30th of December, 1863, Major Fontain, of the 57th Va. Regiment, commanding this post, received information of the advance of the enemy's Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry, from Washington. He immediately ordered Major Moore, of the 3d N. C. Cavalry below, with a small portion of his command, consisting of small detachments of Companies G, E, and K, and a piece of Artillery from Starr's Battery, commanded by Lieut. Myrover, to reconnoitre and fight them if necessary. Major Moore proceeded about nine (9) miles below Greenville, when he discovered that he was in the enemy's rear, they having taken another road.

Counter-marching his command Maj. Moore advanced very cautiously with his "advance guard," five hundred yards in front of his command, and a double vidette, one five hundred and the other a thousand yards ahead of the "guard." Suddenly both the vidette and "guard" came upon the enemy already formed to receive us, they having heard Major Moore's command cross a small bridge some fifteen minutes before. A portion of them had dismounted and ambuscaded themselves on both sides of the road. We were upon them ere we knew it. Major Moore ordered Lieut. Smith, (Co. G.) Acting Adjutant, to order the artillery one-fourth of a mile to the rear, but Lieut. Smith, finding Lieut. Myrover already prepared for action, reported to Major Moore, who to save the artillery ordered Lieut. Myrover to hold his piece in position, having in the mean time ordered the cavalry to "charge" the enemy, which was instantly obeyed, Co. G, (Scotland Neck cavalry) leading the "charge." Maj. Moore soon discovered the enemy too strong for his little band, and ordered them to fall back *slowly* in the rear of the artillery. Before the men could form in rear of the artillery the enemy had surrounded us from the ambuscade in the woods, capturing the artillery, their main column "charging" our front. Maj. Moore, seeing that he was out-numbered ten to one, ordered his men to draw off, which they did, the enemy not *daring* to pursue one hundred yards. The enemy, before the engagement, had succeeded, by the aid of a good pilot, and from the nature of the country, in surrounding and capturing our out-post pickets, after considerable pursuit and with a loss of one of their horses, consisting of three men, (one of whom made his escape in the fight,) and came to within four miles of Greenville, to Red Bank Church, where Co. K, 57th Va., were on picket duty. They (Co. K) made their escape in the woods. The enemy burned the Church, formed in the light of the fire, and marched off without having but the two guns of the videttes fired at them. The others of the infantry, lying a few yards off concealed, failing to fire into them for some reason unknown, notwithstanding they had the cover of the woods and a dark night to shelter them. The enemy's strength was not less than four hundred and fifty (450) well mounted men, with a picked position. Our loss was only two killed, Lieut. D. C. Camp, and Private F. B. Ferrall; three (3) prisoners from Co. G, four (4) from Starr's Battery, and one man of the 57th Va. captured at the Church; one piece of artillery, eleven horses and three horses wounded. With the exception of one man and two horses which we took, of the enemy's loss we know only what we get from the citizens. They report six killed and fifteen wounded. The enemy admitted that they had only gained the artillery. Of the gallantry of Lieut. Camp and Private Ferrall too much cannot be said. Lieut. Camp commanded the first platoon and fell leading it furiously on to the "charge." Ferrall was shot at the head of the column and in the very act of striking a Yankee with his sabre. We, their comrades and friends, mourn their irreparable loss, and their names will ever be fresh and indelibly inscribed upon the tablets of our memory. Maj. Moore, from his conduct upon the occasion, merits and receives the fullest confidence of both men and officers, as a competent and fearless commander. In fact, all, both men and officers, behaved with the utmost gallantry and coolness. Lieut. Myrover and his noble artillerymen standing by their gun to the very last.

Had it not been for the exceeding darkness of the night—so much so that it was impossible to distinguish friend from foe—no doubt but that Maj. Moore would have completely routed the entire force. Having given you this statement, I trust you may correct all misrepresentations of the affair given by a "Kinston Correspondent," or any other newspaper general, who, like drowning men always "catching at straws," but whose headquarters will always be found a considerable distance in the *rear*, at least never near the scene of danger. T——.

Tribute of Respect.

At a meeting of Co. G., (Scotland Neck Cavalry,) 3d N. C. Cavalry, held near Greenville, N. C., on the 6th of January, 1864, for the purpose of tendering a tribute of respect to the memory of Lieut. David C. Camp and private F. B. Ferrell, who fell in the late skirmish with the enemy near this place, on the night of the 30th Dec., 1863, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God in His wisdom to suddenly cut from our midst Lieut. DAVID C. CAMP and private FRANCIS B. FERRELL, and while we humbly acknowledge his power and willingly acquiesce to his decrees.

Resolved, That in the death of Lieut. CAMP and Private FERRALL, we, their comrades and associates, feel that the vacancy in our ranks caused by the sad catastrophe, can never again be filled, for two nobler and more generous hearted men and braver soldiers cannot be found. Their characters at home and in camp, and their conduct upon the battle-field, were highly worthy of emulation even by the most perfect.

Resolved, That while we know their families mourn the loss of relatives, we too mourn the loss of friends and companions, and tender to the disconsolate bereaved, the sympathetic tear over the grave of the never forgotten departed.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to the families of the deceased, and to the Wilmington Journal and Petersburg Express for publication, requesting the Florida papers to copy.

Lieut. NORFLEET SMITH,
Sergt. THEODORE B. HYMAN, } Committee.
Sergt. ROBT. R. COTTEN,

THE SWORD OF MONTGOMERY.—A Yankee correspondent, who was recently at Quebec, writes:

Are you aware that the sword of Montgomery is still kept in Quebec? On a visit there a few days ago, I was informed on creditable authority that a Canadian there still retains the identical weapon which his father took from the body of Montgomery on the morning after he fell. The statement was that this man went out early in the morning to see what had been done, and found the body partly frozen.—He took the sword and kept it. He lived to old age, and then bequeathed it, with a written statement of all circumstances, to his son who has preserved them to this time. Is this matter worth an examination? I mentioned it to the gentlemanly American Consul there, Mr. Ogden, who seemed to be aware of it. How it would electrify the heart of every patriot to have brought home at this late day the sword which Montgomery carried to the walls of Quebec! I tried to see it, but failed on account of missing an appointment, and coming away that day, had no further opportunity.

THE FIRST WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE.—A contemporary observes that we have suffered nothing yet compared with what our fathers suffered in the first war for independence. Then we had the savage Indians at our backs, the tories over our hearth-stones, and a fair and open enemy in our front. Augusta, Savannah, Charleston, Camden, and "Ninety Six," were all then British posts, and Georgia and South Carolina were occupied almost entirely for three long and dreary years. Yet a heroic ancestry rose from our valleys and descended from our hills, trusting in God, resolved to perish rather than survive as slaves, and they drove our conquerors from the soil: and so we can do, even should our lands be overrun by vandals.

The following is extracted from the N. O. True Delta of the 15th ult.:

"Provost Court—A. A. Atocha, Judge. A number of negroes were charged with having a seditious religious meeting, praying for the return of their masters, for Beauregard and Jeff. Davis, saying that their expectations of Abe Lincoln had not been realized."

This is significant enough. The negroes, almost every one knows, generally hatch their "sedition" at religious meetings.

"DAT VOS NIX"—Not long since an honest German "entered his appearance" before one of our magistrates, and made complaint against a gay Lothario for compensatory damages for stealing his wife's clothing. The lady occupied the interior of the clothing at the time of the theft, but this fact seemed to be ignored by the complainant. The dispenser of justice suggested that instead of trying to recover the value of the dry goods, a suit be instituted for damages to his frau's honor. "Oh no," replied the injured man, in the most philosophic and complacent tone imaginable, "dat vos nix!"

Detroit Advertiser.

BARNEY WILLIAMS, the Irish comedian, was recently fined $1000 in New York City for striking a man named Wilson, on account of words disrespectfully spoken by the latter.

Irishmen in Yankeedom are only expected to fight *for* the Yankees.

A Gallant Man.

In our account of the late Yankee raid upon Salem, (says the Lynchburg Republican,) we mentioned the fact that a gentleman named Foster "bushwhacked" and killed six of Averill's troopers. In the Abindon Virginian, of yesterday, we find Mr. Foster's own statement, which we copy entire, that his example may be emulated by others, when an occasion arises. His success in "bushwhacking," and with a small party in stampeding a body of the enemy, shows what could have been done by a few resolute men, properly organized and resolved to defend their homes at all hazards. Mr. F. writes from

RED SULPHUR SPRING, VA., }
Dec. 26, 1863. }

Messrs Editors—Will you be so kind as to give publication to a short letter through the columns of your wide spread journal, in order that a more explicit statement may be made of the part I took in combatting the late Yankee raiders. I would not trouble your readers with a communication, but from the fact that I have seen an article on the subject in the Linchburg Republican, in which the writer makes mention of my name in a very complimentary manner.

The enemy made their appearance in this section on the morning of the 15th ult., en route for Salem. As soon as apprised of their appearance, I mounted my horse, borrowed a rifle, and went in pursuit. Riding up the road a mile, I dismounted, tied my horse and concealed myself in the woods near the turnpike.—The enemy's column by this time was considerably scattered. I watched my chance, and on one of the "blue jackets" approaching in twenty yards of me I leveled my rifle, and at its crack, the fellow reeled and fell.

I continued bushwhacking them until I fired seven shots, killing 4 and wounding 2. My horse was captured about noon, but I succeeded in capturing two which amply repaid me. At night I took six citizens with me and crawled up within ten steps of their pickets, and on being halted fired and ordered my little party to charge, but they being civilians, charged the wrong way, and "double quicked" in the opposite direction. Next morning about 9 o'clock. on the return of the party, I headed a party and charged the rear guard of the column, while they were engaged in burning one of their broken down wagons.

We fired upon them; and putting spurs to their horses, they were soon out of sight. This little surprise so alarmed the scoundrels that they immediately reported it to their commander, and on following them eight miles we found the road blockaded by trees, and their regiments drawn up in line-of-battle.

And here I will end my short letter, stating that the enemy, on account of swollen creeks and severe weather, found Salem a rough road to travel.

Very respectfully yours,
R. B. FOSTER.

MORE AGITATION.—In its great anxiety to make peace with the Yankees, the Raleigh Standard and its adherents appear determined that we shall have no peace at home. There are unmistakable signs in that paper that a new programme of county meetings and resolutions is arranged for the Spring Courts; and we are creditably informed that a set of resolutions has already been prepared *in Raleigh* and sent down to Johnston county for adoption there and afterwards in every other county in which meetings of the right stripe can be gotten up. The object this time is to agitate for a State Convention, in which, in the language of the *Standard* "*the people of North Carolina will take their own affairs into their own hands*," that is, in plain language, go out of the Confederacy. This, instead of making peace with the Yankees, would but add a civil war to the foreign war now raging. If the people are not prepared for this, let them beware of the teachings of the *Standard*, which educated the people in the doctrine of secession, voted us into the present war, and pledged "the last dollar and the last man" to maintain it. Who will guarantee that if the *Standard* should get the people saddled with another war it would be any more true than to the present.—*Fay. Observer.*

Going North.—Every day we hear of parties, who have amassed fortunes in this city since the commencement of the war, pulling up stakes and skedadling to the North.—Occasionally the fugitives are overhauled and brought back; but the great majority get safely across the Potomac river, only to be robbed and murdered by the gangs of Yankees that prowl about the crossing places to plunder all who come within their reach. Several instances of murder have been reported to our authorities within the past month.

Richmond Dispatch

Plate for the Use of the Government.

[Letter from a Gentleman to his Friend.]

* * * The plate that is in our country, and its value to our Government, if the people can be induced to relinquish it, has doubtless occurred to many minds—been, perhaps, weighed and repudiated—but you, I presume to think, might be made to act, if not a principal, a valuable subsidiary part, in any well digested scheme to restore the credit of the Treasury, to give stability to any system of finance to arrest depreciation of Confederate notes and stock, by furnishing that, in kind, which is the basis of all credits—gold and silver. I think we have it, and in large amount. We have in the possession of our people, in the form of gold and silver plate, a vast and unproductive fund—every household more or less of it. Was there ever a better time to bring it forward?—even greater need for it—ever stronger inducements to tender it to the Government for the common good? I have no means of ascertaining the amount of value in the Confederacy, but it must be very great. Can it be had? Two years ago this would admit of no question. It would have been flung into the Treasury—a gratuitous offering to the cause of independence. But now I f[illegible]ere will be found a more bargaining temper, and it must be purchased and paid for in the bonds of the Government. If this can be done (and there ought to be no reasonable doubt about it,) then with this large fund of actual money—bullion—you may buy up, or otherwise supplant an indefinite amount of our depreciated currency—and, by diminishing the circulation, reduce prices, and enable us to supply our armies and conquer a peace. We have great and glorious precedents of the efficacy of this very measure, in the history of our ancestors, in the civil war of Charles the First and his Parliament—in almost all its features analogous to ours. When in that civil strife, says the historian, the advantage inclined to the Royalists, "orders were issued for bringing in loans of money and plate, in order to maintain the forces. Within ten days vast quantities of plate were brought to their treasury: hardly were there men enough to receive it, or room sufficient to stow it, and many, with regret, were obliged to carry back the offerings, and wait until the treasurers could find leisure to receive them; such zeal animated the pious partisans of the Parliament. The women gave up all the plate and ornaments of their houses, and even their silver thimbles and bodkins, in order to support the good cause against the Malignants." This was in 1642, when the Sun of Liberty had just begun to dawn—when the people had just begun to understand and assert their rights. How should it be here now, in 1863, when greater Malignants assail us—when the cause is as good and holy as that for which they gave all their plate and the ornaments of their houses? We have now more than double the population, and many times more money and plate than the England of that day.—In the preceding reign the first carriage was introduced in the kingdom; and perhaps there was not a feather bed to be found in the whole realm. And yet the patriots of England gave all their treasure of money and plate to the "support of the good cause against the Malignants." They seem to have known the value of their rights, and how to support them. Shall we follow their example, or acknowledge our degeneracy?

The gold and silver plate might, all told, be seventy five to one hundred millions dollars; add all the ornaments and jewelry of the ladies, gold and silver watches, and we should have to make a bureau to count it and build a house to stow it.

If I have not greatly over-estimated the amount of gold and silver plate in the country, then it must be manifest to every mind what so great a fund could accomplish, if judiciously employed. It might be made auxiliary to any plan of taxation, and reduce the burden; it would make our purchases abroad, where gold and silver is indispensable. But I do not presume to premise how it should be employed. More enlightened minds will dispose of it. I only feel that it might be greatly beneficial—not itself a panacea—but, in conjunction with other measures, furnish a means of relief, the more to be commended because it will fall mainly on those alone able to bear it. I think, too, with good and skillful approaches, it may be reached and realized by the Government. The great public heart, though it beats more faintly, is not yet exhausted. It is full of treasure when the key is found to unlock it. It gives without a price a voluntary, free will offering.—It would be the best investment our straightened people ever made; it would almost, in future, insure our success in the "good cause," and save our honor and property, animate our own and depress the spirit of our enemy. The very spectacle of an entire people, men and women, coming up and laying such an offering upon the altars of the country, would show to all men that we not only determined, but deserved to be free.

Yours truly, D. F. S.

AFFAIRS ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI.

Hon. A. M. Branch, member of Congress from Texas, has arrived at Mobile, *en route* for Richmond. He left Alexandria on the 16th, at which time they had advices at that point from Houston, thirty-nine hours old. The Mobile *Advertiser* publishes the following intelligence furnished by him:

The enemy were at Matagorda, moving along the coast in a column about 6,000 strong, accompanied by their naval force. Their immediate destination was Velasco, which they were expected to reach about the 8th, but it was doubtful whether they would succeed, as Magruder's force was ample to meet them. The General himself was in the saddle, and the Texans, mindful of the days and deeds of 1835 and '36, were turning out to a man.

Velasco is at the mouth of the Brazos, in close proximity to the Southern extremity of Galveston Island, and the object of the Yankee movement is to flank Galveston.

About the time that Mr. Branch left Alexandria the Federals fell back from New Iberia. Mouton's division was at Alexandria; destination uncertain, but supposed to be Monroe. Walker was at Atchafalaya.

Kirby Smith left Shreveport with Price, who was moving on Little Rock with about 15,000 men. The enemy at Little Rock are said to be 5,000 strong, the rest of their force, some 7,000, being at Pine Bluff.—They have increased their force at the latter place since Marmaduke's raid, in which he captured 150 negroes and 300 horses and mules, and burned their commissary stores, with a loss of only 12 men. The Yankees, it will be remembered, reported this as a repulse of Marmaduke.

On Saturday, 12th, Capt. Adams, of Capers' command, with 50 men, surprised a party of Yankees and negroes on Bœuf river, killing 40 or 50 and capturing 12 prisoners and 20 odd horses, arms, &c., with the loss of one man.

Judge Field, from the Indian Nation, who accompanies Mr. Branch, informs us that Cooper was returning towards the Arkansas river with two Texas regiments and a force of about 5,000 Indians, composed of two Choctaw, two Creek, and two Cherokee regiments, and a battalion of Seminoles. The Cherokees and Creeks are mostly expatriated and have taken refuge in the Choctaw nation, but maintain their position.

These gentlemen experienced much difficulty in crossing the river and in getting through the bottom on this side, where they were obliged to lie out two nights. The Yankees destroy every boat on the river, down to a dug out, and threaten to burn the house of every man that puts anybody across. They crossed in a boat that was hauled seven miles in a wagon, their horses swimming; and while it was on its return a gunboat and transport passed down, running slowly, close to the shore, and keeping a sharp lookout.

They confirm the report we recently published of the depredations of the river pirates styled the "marine brigade." They lately made a descent on Bruinsburg, where they seized a quantity of salt and 200 packages of tobacco, which they distributed among the negroes, and ended by plundering everybody, the negroes, included, whom they robbed of their blankets.

Adam's command recently captured a Lieutenant of this gang of thieves, who had his handkerchief full of rings and breastpins. The impression of our informants is that he—*escaped.*

LATER FROM TEXAS.—MOBILE, Jan. 8.—The Advertiser and Register contains extracts from Texas papers of December 11.

The enemy had turned back to Saluria. It was supposed that their force was not sufficient to meet ours.

The schooner Friendship bound for Brazos with arms, ammunition and sundries was captured on the 13th at the mouth of Caney Bayou.

The Texas Telegraph of the 11th says: Commissioners were sent to San Louis to negotiate for permission to march an army through Mexican territory to Pedras Nebras, but the Governor of Tamaulipas will resist.

Advices to the 15th state the enemy are still at Adcrow's Point receiving reinforcements and are evidently preparing to advance, with a force estimated at from 18,000 to 20,000.

Every preparation to give them a suitable reception is pushed forward with energy and vigor by Gen. Magruder.

On the night of the 25th, Lieut. Sibley of the 15th Confederate Cavalry destroyed Toomer's Mill on Pearl River and captured and burned two schooners under the guns of Fort Pike, bringing off the crews. No loss on our side.

Escaped Prisoners Returned.

The Atlanta Appeal of Wednesday evening last says:

We yesterday had quite an interesting interview with two young Kentuckians, Mr. Henry J. Mead and Jacob Hill, of Morgan's command, who made their escape from Camp Douglas, at Chicago, in the latter part or November. Having rigged themselves out in citizen's dress, they remained a day at Chicago, when they took passage on the cars for Cincinnati, where they also spent one day. They then proceeded to Louisville, their home, where they spent a week, making themselves known only to a few confidential friends.

On their way out from Louisville, they accidentally fell in with General Morgan, in Nelson county, near Bardstown, with whom they remained until they reached the side of the Tennessee river. They found General Morgan, with an ox whip in his possession, passing himself off, with those to whom he did not care to reveal himself, as a Government agent, engaged in buying up mules. They travelled altogether at night by the assistance of faithful guides, and lay by in the day time, making at one time as many as sixty-five miles in one night.

As a general thing, they found the people of Kentucky always ready and willing to aid them in any way in their power. Oftener than otherwise, General Morgan made himself known to the people, who seemed to be in raptures at his escape, and offering him every assistance in their power. During his progress through the State he was presented with two very fine horses. We should have stated that Captain T. H. Hines, who planned the escape of Morgan from the Ohio Penitentiary, came through with the party. Captains Shelton and Payne were recaptured in Kentucky.

The party crossed Cumberland river at Turkey Neck Bend, three miles below Burkesville. In Overton county, Tennessee, they met up with some thirty-five others of Morgan's men, who came out with them, crossed the Tennessee river at Forshee's Island, on rafts hastily constructed from logs. Here all but four or five lost their horses, a party of Federal soldiers falling upon them before they had perfected the crossing. One of their party was also captured here, all the others making their escape. Here General Morgan and Captain Hines, having saved their horses, separated from the main party, and pursued their way into South Carolina.

The remainder, under the command of Captain Dan Ray, made the best of their way on foot, travelling over the rough and mountainous country all that night, and were at one time two days without food. They very soon, however, succeeded in pressing a number of horses for their use, when they moved on more rapidly, crossing the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad near Athens, Tennessee. They then proceeded across the Hiwassee river, and came into our lines at Dalton.

The entire trip of these gentlemen, from Chicago to Dalton, was marked with almost uninterrupted success, though they mention many hairbreadth escapes, which only served to give zest to the adventure. They are of the opinion that at least half of Morgan's men have escaped from Camp Douglas, as hardly a day passes that a greater or less number did not make their escape. When the news reached the camp, a body of forty of his men broke over the guards, most of whom made their escape.

MEADE'S ARMY—INTENDED ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE.—A correspondent of the New York News, writing from Alexandria, Va., says:

While Meade's army remains safely pent up in winter quarters, and recruits its energies for some great effort when Spring comes round, the other armies engaged in the stupendous work of suppressing the rebellion, will be likely to continue offensive operations. I am led to the belief by the departure from this city of a large number of bridge builders and rail road operatives. These men have been employed repairing and constructing rail roads and bridges between this city and the Rappahannock, and they are now transferred to another department, but nothing positive is known about it yet. They repaired to Washington this afternoon, and they expect to proceed to their destination immediately. As nothing can be done against Richmond in this quarter before April next, perhaps a portion of the Army of the Potomac will also be transferred to another field, but this is mere conjecture; and the paramount importance of protecting the base of proclamations may deter the authorities from weakening their defences by sending any of the men to operate in another department.

MARRIED.

On the 7th January, A. D., 1864, by D. S. Sandlin, Esq., Mr. LARKINS LANIER, to Mrs. JANE HENDERSON, all of Onslow County, N. C.

The London *Builder* says a company has been formed to bring into practical use a spiral fluted nail, recently invented in England. They are fluted and twisted in a machine, and are manufactured as cheep as any nails. The holding quality of the nails are remarkable; no holes are required to be made before driving those of the largest size, and there is no danger of the board splitting, however near to the edge the nail is driven. The spiral point causes the nail to resolve as it advances, and its tenacity of holding is equal to that of a wood screw.

We learn from a gentleman just arrived from North Carolina, that the 62d Georgia regiment captured two negroes and a white Lieutenant of a negro regiment, who were identified as belonging to the party who hung Lieut. Griffith. It was determined to take the three to the spot where poor Griffith was murdered, and hang them in retaliation. The captures were made in Perquimans County, N. C.—*Rich. Sentinel.*

Latest from the Front.

Gen. Longstreet has gone into winter quarters at Morristown. His cavalry skirmish with the enemy daily. Gen. Ransom is at Moresburg, Hawkins county. From this place he is enabled to watch the movements of the enemy at Cumberland Gap and prevent a flank movement upon Gen. Longstreet.

Lynchburg Republican, 9th inst.

WASHING THE HAIR.—The beauty and permanency of the hair are best promoted by the strictest cleanliness. * * * Some writers strongly disapprove of even wetting the hair, and muster up we know not how many evil consequences likely to follow the practice.—This, however, is a ridiculous prejudice; no possible injury, but on the contrary much good, will result from ablution of the head. It is even a mistaken idea into which many have fallen that there is danger of catching cold from this practice, unless the greatest care be observed to prevent exposure subsequently to the open air. No such fear need be entertained, especially when the practice of washing the hair has been commenced and constantly observed from early life.

M. Arego, in his late voyage around the world, remarks that the South Sea Islanders, who have fine long hair with a beautiful silky gloss, promote its beauty by frequently washing it.

A chief of the Creek Indians, having been appointed to negotiate a treaty of peace with the citizens of South Carolina, and having met the proper authorities for that purpose, was desired by the Governor to speak his mind freely and without reserve; for, as he was among his friends, he need not be "afraid." "I will," said he, "speak freely; I will not be *afraid*. Why should I be *afraid* among my friends, who am never *afraid* among my enemies."

OBITUARY.

Died of Pleurisy, at his residence on Topsail Sound, in New Hanover County, on the 28th of December, 1863, Rev. CHAS. ALEXANDER, aged about 45 years. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his irreparable loss. But they have the pleasing consciousness of knowing that if they follow his Godly example that they will only be separated for a season. They will meet hereafter in that better land, where parting is unknown and Time endeth its span in Eternity. He looked upward through tears hallowed by the consoling thought that he was going to exchange this poor earth for the company of angels and that they should meet again and be reunited with cords of love never to be severed or broken by death. Yes, he is gone, and the dim years of age and weariness is turned to endless peace and unfading joy.

W. W. L.

DIED.

In this town, on yesterday, Mr. JOHN HALL, aged 48 years.

The deceased has, perhaps, left no enemy upon earth. Obliging, frank and confiding in his intercourse with his fellow men devotedly steadfast in his attachments, humane, sympathetic and generous to a fault, no appeal of suffering, woe or want was ever unheeded by him. His charity was open as the day, and his philanthropic and enlarged benevolence was limited only by his means to bestow.

In Hanover county, at his late residence, THOMAS LEE, aged 73 years.

WILMINGTON MARKET, Jan. 13th, 1864.

BEEF CATTLE—Are in demand and scarce; any coming in sells readily on the hoof at 70 to 80 cents per lb. for net meat.
BEESWAX—$4 50 to $4 75 per lb.
BACON—sells at $2 25 to $2 50 per lb.
BUTTER—$4 50 to $5 per lb.
CORN—Is scarce and wanted. Sells at $10 to $12 per bushel.
CORN MEAL—Scarcely any on market, and in demand. Retails from the granaries at $10 per bushel.
COPPERAS—Retails at $3 to $4 per lb.
COTTON—Small sales for the week at $1 65 to $1 75 per lb.
FLOUR—Stock light and prices advancing. We quote at $1 10 per lb. for superfine.
FODDER—$12 to $15 per 100 lbs.
HAY—$15 to $17 per 100 lbs.
HIDES—Green $1 75 to $2, and Dry $4 to $4 25 per lb.
LEATHER—Sole $11 to $11 50, and Upper $12 50 to $13 per lb.
LARD—$2 25 to $2 50 per lb.
MOLASSES—$14 per gallon by the bbl.
NAILS—$1 60 to $1 65 per lb. by the keg.
POULTRY.—Live fowls $2 25 to $2 50, and Turkeys $10 to $12 each; dressed $1 75 to $2 per lb.
PEAS—Nominal at $10 per bushel.
POTATOES.—Sweet, $10 to $12, and Irish $18 to $20 per bushel.
PORK—Fresh is brought in sparingly, and sells from carts at $1 60 to $1 75 per lb.
PEA NUTS—$10 to $12 per bushel.
RICE—Clean, 50 to 55 cents per lb.
SALT.—Small sales of Sound made from store at $12 50 to $15 per bushel.
SUGAR.—Brown sells by the hhd. at $4 85 to $2 90, and by the bbl. at $2 95 to $3 per lb.
SHEETING.—Fayetteville factory, $3 40 to $3 50 per yard.
SPIRITS TURPENTINE—Nominal, at $2 50 to $4 75 per gallon.
TALLOW—$2 50 to $2 75 per lb.
YARN—By the bale, $30 to $32 per bundle.
WOOD—Is very scarce, and prices have materially advanced. Sells by the boat load at $25 for pine, $30 for ash, and $45 per cord for oak.

LOST,

ABOUT THE 1ST OF DECEMBER LAST, MY POCKET BOOK, containing my exemption papers as a Black Smith, issued by Capt. Swann. Also, other valuable papers. I forewarn any person from using the same. I will give $25 dollars reward for their delivery to me at Beatty's Bridge, Bladen county. G. W. RUSS.
Jan. 13. 16-1t*

WANTED.

AN EXPERIENCED Male and Female Teacher, to take charge of a School in Smithville, Brunswick county. Apply to J. C. Swain, or the subscriber, near Smithville.
JESSE G. DREW.
Jan. 13. 16-4t*

THE HEIRS OF LEMUEL CHERRY, deceased, of Geo. B. Williams, deceased, and of Bryan Mallard, deceased, are again notified that I am prepared to settle with them, *and will not be responsible* for interest, accident or misfortune. JERE. PEARSALL, C. M. E.
Duplin county, Jan. 11, 1864. 16 1t*

PLANTATION TO RENT ON SHARES.

I WILL LEASE MY Holly Shelter Plantation on shares for the coming season.

There is about 350 acres Open Land, the larger portion of which is exceedingly fertile; the dwelling house, negro houses, barns, stables, &c., are ample and in good condition. Twenty five or thirty hands can be profitably employed. E. D. HALL.
January 6 100 3t-15 3t*

LAW OFFICE

OF M. B. SMITH, on the corner between Market and Second streets, opposite the Carolina Hotel.
Jan. 4, 1863. 86t-w6t*

R. W. MILLARD'S SCHOOL.

THE NEXT SESSION of my School will open on Monday, January 18, 1864. Tuition, from $1 to $2 per week. Board, for ten weeks, $1 per week. Lights, towels, &c., must be furnished. Location, Duplin Co., N. C., three miles from Mount Olive, W. & W. R. R. One-half of the expenses in advance.
January 5 98 6t 15-6t*

PER STEAMER PET!

WHITEMORE COTTON CARDS NO. 10!

POWDER, SHOT AND CAPS;
COFFEE, [illegible] CANDLES, Horse Collars, Wool Cards, Upper Leather, Sheep Skins, Sparables, Tacks, Pins, Shoe Thread, &c., &c., at WILSON'S [illegible] Oil, Leather, Saddle & Harness Establishment.
Jan. 11. 104-3t—16 1t

TAKEN UP

AND committed to the Jail of New Hanover county, a negro man who says that his name is NED, and that he belongs to Geo. Bevan, of Americus, Geo. The owner of said negro is hereby notified to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away, otherwise he will be dealt with as the law directs.
E. D. HALL, Sheriff.
Jan. 11th, 1864 104-6t 16-1t

SALT WORKS AND LAND FOR SALE.

WE OFFER FOR SALE 1,000 ACRES OF GOOD PINE land, in Brunswick County, N. C., on the sound, near the mouth of Shalotte River, and the plantation now owned by the heirs of Rev. Wm Gause, upon which is located a COMPLETE SET OF SALT WORKS consisting of eight heavy cast iron pans, six feet by four wide, two pans 14 inches in depth, four do. eleven inches do, two six inch do. There are good out-houses on the premises. The water is excellent for making salt. A good wind mill for pumping the water. Plenty of long leaf pine three fourths of one mile distant from the works. The works were run all last summer and early fall, and the quality of the salt made there cannot be surpassed by any on the coast. Apply to WM. S. UTLEY,
Or ALVA SMITH, Fair Bluff, N. C.
Jan. 11, 1864.—104-tf—16-2t

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1864.

The Sun—No Mails—Our Troops in Northern Virginia.

At nine o'clock this forenoon the sun was seen distinctly by the naked eye, a fact for which even we ourselves, who are near-sighted, can vouch from personal knowledge.

As yet there are no mails from either North or South, owing, no doubt, to the weather. The rails must be perfectly coated with ice, as is every piece of wood, metal or stone about town. Of course if this is the case here on the seaboard, it must be still more so in the interior. We must abide our time with what patience we can muster up.

Wasn't it dark last night? could it have been darker? We think not. A transformation is apparent this morning in the appearance of the trees and shrubbery. All those not quite denuded of their leaves, and some that are, claim affinity in form with the weeping willow, their twigs and branches, which formerly pointed upwards, being all turned down droopingly, owing to the great weight of frozen water which they have to sustain. A little more and some of the loftier evergreens, having bent as much as their nature will allow, must break. Some slender twigs which we examined this morning looked like long icicles, with a thin thread running through them.

And yet the actual cold is by no means intense—very little, indeed, below freezing point. The mud in the streets is still mud and the most disagreeable sort of mud. In no place is the surface of the ground sufficiently hardened to make the walking good. The cold rain, as it falls slowly on the trees, fences and other exposed places where ice has already formed, becomes chilled a very few degrees and adds its weight to the frozen mass.

Some years ago the Wilmington and Weldon R. R. trains were considerably detained in passing on trestles or embankments through certain swamps on the line, the trees on each side, made heavy by the ice accumulated on their branches, having bent down to the track, getting in the way of the cars and even some branches wholly broken down getting on the rails themselves.—It is not improbable that this may be the case to-day, and, perhaps, for some days, for the weather gives no sign of moderation or even of change.

It is trying to be deprived of our usual mail facilities. It is not easy to get out a paper wholly without exchanges, reminding us of the Egyptian brick-making of the children of Israel, to whom Pharaoh would give no straw—for they put straw in their brick in those days, that is, their sun-dried bricks or *adobes*—which both the Assyrians and Egyptians used for many purposes in their dry climate. But this is only a petty annoyance compared with that to which those are subjected who have to bide the peltings of the pitiless storm, and we allude to it simply by way of explanation, and not of complaint.

Speaking of cold, we had the pleasure yesterday of meeting one of our young friends, Captain Poisson, just from the army of Northern Virginia, which he left on Monday last. It was snowing then, and "cold as blazes," but the men were cheerful, and upon the whole comfortable. Owing to the wise and fortunate provision made by North Carolina in getting goods for her troops through the blockade, the wants of her soldiers were generally supplied. Notice had been given that shoes and blankets would be distributed, in which articles a deficiency had heretofore existed. In this connection much credit is due to Governor Vance, and it is cheerfully accorded by us.

It is really refreshing to mark the hearty and cheerful tone of our young men who occasionally get a furlough from the army of Northern Virginia, to visit their homes here. It stands out in striking contrast to the querulous tone of too many at home, who have borne no hardships and exposed their persons to no dangers. All honor to our noble boys from whatever section of the State or of the Confederacy they may have come. This town and this section need not be ashamed of their representatives in the field. Many, too many, sleep in honored graves, although no monuments yet mark their resting places; but there is reason to be thankful that so many still survive, and, we trust, will survive to wear the honors they have so nobly won.—*Daily Journal*, 8th.

Going Off.—We suppose that some parties have gone and that others will go off to avoid the conscription, or to escape the existing troubles; but we think, in fact we know, that our cotemporaries at a distance are greatly mistaken in supposing that many of them will leave through the blockade. The orders on that head are altogether too stringent, and their enforcement here too strict to permit that game being carried on.—In fact we do not think that "Baron Konig" is not the only party who feels aggrieved by General Whiting, or that the unbending firmness of that officer has not indeed made enemies among those who had made arrangements to leave the country. Persons cannot leave the country through this port unless they have a perfect right to do so. Those liable to service will find the blockade through Wilmington a second Jordan, in that it is "a hard road to travel."

Parties will be much more apt to seek an exit through the enemy's lines, if at all. After they have done so they will find that they have jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire.

It will be seen that Congress has taken the matter earnestly in hand, and will apply the most stringent measures in regard to property, etc.

"Hermes," the Richmond correspondent of the Charleston *Mercury*, writing under date of the 1st instant, says:

At the War Department it is believed that the main attack of the enemy will be upon Wilmington, and such is the opinion of the N. C. delegation. What preparations have been made to defeat this or any other attack on the coast from Wilmington to Savannah, I cannot say.

New Orleans.—The very name of the Crescent City once brought to the mind only thoughts of victory and visions of glory. The laurels of its ancient defenders are still green, and the deeds of their sons on many a battle-field during the present war show that they are not unworthy of their illustrious descent.—Still, although no dishonor attaches to the people of New Orleans, recent events, which have subjected it to at least as galling a tyranny as that which it escaped nearly fifty years ago, cause thoughts of sorrow and humiliation to mingle with those feelings of pride with which the anniversary of the battle of Chalmette used only to be hailed.

Well, this is the 8th of January—the anniversary of a day ever memorable in the annals of the country. Its glories should be kept in remembrance to stimulate the men of the present day to emulate the exertions that achieved them, and to keep alive hope, by showing that nothing is impossible to brave men fighting for their country. In this spirit the Louisianians, now denizens of the town of Wilmington, celebrate the day, and keep up the old association.—*Daily Journal*, 8th.

No Northern Mail yet.—The detention on the Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road yesterday was caused by a tree which had broken down and fallen across the track, some fifteen to twenty miles from Wilmington. The engine and tender of the morning down mail train were thrown off the track, and the engineer and fireman pretty severely though not dangerously injured. Nobody else was hurt, which was providential.

It gives us sincere pleasure to mark the manner in which the appointment of our fellow citizen, Hon. Geo. Davis, to the position of Confederate Attorney General is received by the press of the country. His merit and qualifications are recognised in a most kindly and liberal spirit, generally, indeed without exception, so far as we have seen.

For many years we knew Mr. Davis as a political opponent, we being a supporter and he an opponent of the Democratic party, until the occurrence of the circumstances which, culminating in the present war, silenced the voice of mere party in every patriot's breast, and merged all other feelings in those of devotion to the Confederate cause, and anxiety for its success. It is due to Mr. Davis to say that in all that time he could never be classed as a mere politician, nor did we ever know him to indulge in bitterness or vituperation against the members of the party opposed to him. When delegates were sent to a peace conference by a Legislature containing a decided Democratic majority, Mr. Davis was elected as one of those delegates. While serving in that capacity he became convinced of the certainty and imminency of the crisis, and on his return to Wilmington addressed an immense audience in the Theatre, proclaiming his convictions of the hopelessness of any attempt at conciliation, owing to the fixed determination of the North neither to respect the sacred rights nor listen to the past demands of the South. We recollect the occasion as though it were yesterday. It was a very few weeks before the issuance of Mr. Lincoln's proclamation, which set the seal upon the matter, and closed the door against the hope of reconciliation with even the most hopeful.

Mr. Davis was chosen one of the first Confederate Senators from North Carolina, drawing the short term. He was chosen by a Legislature having a large Democratic majority, and life-long Whig though he had been, was supported by the representatives from such extreme Democratic counties as New Hanover, Duplin, &c., &c. That was bad for Mr. Davis. Those by whom he was supported were willing to throw aside party, and did throw it aside—they would not obey the behests of a certain rule or ruin clique—they opposed making party issues—therefore they were called by this clique "destructives," and Mr. Davis, as not either bowing down to the clique aforesaid, *calling* itself "conservative," although in fact he was more truly conservative than it, nor cursing and denouncing those with whose principles he agreed, although they were *called* "destructives," was marked for destruction by the conservatives who ruled the roast last winter.—He was turned out *sans ceremonie*. The reception which his nomination to a cabinet appointment has met with from the Senate and the country, shows that neither agree with the Holdenite party of North Carolina in their war upon public men, whose only fault is devotion to their country.

We allude to these matters with no disposition to reflect, "for party purposes," upon the eminent gentleman (Hon. Wm. A. Graham,) who succeeds Mr. Davis in the Confederate Senate, but simply to illustrate the character of parties as they now stand in North Carolina, and to show how unjust is the stigma endeavored to be cast upon those sneeringly denominated "destructives." Mr. Davis, never a Democrat—not an original secessionist, but, on the contrary, one who held on to the hopes of the Union until all hope had failed, was elected by a Democratic Legislature—a so-called "Destructive" Legislature, and turned out by a conglomerate so-called "conservative" Legislature! Let the facts speak for themselves. He is appointed to the Attorney-Generalship by President Davis, with whom he never cast a vote under the old government, or while old parties existed. And yet President Davis is denounced daily and hourly as a mere partisan! Again, we say, let facts speak for themselves.

A Cross-Eyed Mule.

A gentleman advertising in our paper a few weeks since for a stray mule described said animal as cross-eyed, which it no doubt was. But the idea of the cross-eyed mule haunted us. We once dreamed of it. But in our dream it was an untrustworthy animal, and kept twisting and turning itself around, getting drunk, and appearing with the same cross-eyes, arrayed (it, not the eyes) in the garb of a federal major general, and calling itself B. F. Butler.

And yet our dream did injustice to the mule, for though resembling Butler in the obliquity of its vision, it never spoke a bad word in its life—never got drunk—never stole jewelry—never insulted ladies, or very seldom. And if its father *was* a jackass there are worse animals than the aforesaid steed of Balaam.—The donkey is neither mean, cowardly nor ferocious, Butler is all these, and more too, therefore Butler is a worse "beast" than the mule, or his father the jackass. We ask pardon of the cross-eyed mule, for comparing him, even in a dream, to the cross-eyed hyena of New Orleans and Norfolk.

Substitutes and Exemptions.

So far as we have heard from our troops in the army of Northern Virginia, the feeling in regard to putting in the principals of substitutes is universally and strongly for that measure. This is due less to any calculation upon the subject, so far as a knowledge of its necessity for filling up the ranks is concerned, than from a belief that men have hired substitutes that they themselves might speculate, and thus take advantage of the necessities of soldiers and their families. That this is so in too many cases, cannot, we fear, be truthfully denied.—To say that it is so in *all*, would be to go too far, as all unqualified denunciations or sweeping assertions are apt to do. While we agree with the general sentiment that, as things have turned out, it is unfortunate that the substitute laws were enacted at all, we feel convinced that there *have* been cases in which they have operated beneficially to the community; and, if they could be confined to these, would still operate beneficially.

The matter of exemptions does not appear to be so generally decided upon among the soldiers in the field. They all know that the Railroads must be kept up—that this is as much a military necessity as the putting of men in the field, for without them armies could neither be moved nor supplied. They all knew that to make the supplies which the roads transport, the industry of the country *must* go on. They all know that we are greatly deficient in skilled labor. These considerations must be apparent to all men of common sense. The true ground is that no exemption should be granted as a personal favor, but simply upon the ground that the person left out of the army is of more benefit to the country out of the ranks than in them. Congress, after all, will probably pass some exemption law. It is simply a question whether Congress shall define the grounds and limits of exemption, or leave them to be defined by the Executive. In either case, we shall not call in question the motives of Congress, for arguments may be brought forward in support of either course, but it seems to us that the sentiment of the country would favor the mode by congressional enactments, rather than by Executive regulation.

The man who got out of bed this morning calmly and without a shudder, is a dangerous character. That man can have no sympathy with or feeling for himself, and if a man don't feel for himself, how can he be expected to feel for others?

Most people took it *coolly*—how *could* they do otherwise? Nothing but a stern devotion to principle carried any man through the necessary and accustomed ablutions. Every now and then through the night, a crush told of the breaking of some limb, or the fall of some tree, overburdened and pressed down by the weight of ice.

Night before last was a night, as we remarked once before. It would have struck anybody of common sense that any other body of common sense who had a roof to cover him would be under the cover of said roof, yet, strange enough, away after eleven o'clock we heard some party or parties "squealing" and snortling around in a promiscuous manner, causing us to get up and look around for the "fire." We are happy to say that we did not find it. With an exclamation something like mill-*pond* energetically pronounced, we went to sleep.

From the Dublin Nation, Nov. 7.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

ANSWER OF WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN TO GENERAL MEAGHER.

KILLARNEY, Oct. 28, 1863.

My Dear Smyth—I perceive that our friend T. F. Meagher, not satisfied with having made, in America, a series of brilliant orations in favor of a continuance of the civil war that has raged during nearly three years in the United States, has sent a dispatch to Ireland which is evidently intended to induce Irish emigrants to enlist under the Federal banners upon their arrival in America.

I perceive, also that you have endorsed the opinions contained in that despatch with your approval.

Nevertheless, I address this communication to you in full confidence that you will give to the public an opportunity of considering ideas that are totally at variance with those which have been put forward by you and by Gen. Meagher.

Two years ago I ventured to address such of the politicians of America as have shown a disposition to pay respect to my opinions an earnest prayer that they would submit to amicable adjustment the questions which had rent in twain the United States, rather than that they should continue to massacre each other.

My suggestions were received with deference, but I can scarcely complain that they were not adopted when the mediation of the Emperor of the French was declined by Congress in terms which indicated that any offer of this kind would be considered intrusive.

Whilst such a spirit is evinced by the Federals, those friends of America who desire to witness the termination of this war are silenced; and I should not have broken this silence if Gen. Meagher had not made an appeal to his fellow countrymen, which, if left unanswered, might induce many thousands of Irishmen to sacrifice themselves in a contest for which their intervention is not demanded by any obligations of duty.

I cannot calculate at less than 200,000 the number of Irishmen who have already fallen in this horrible warfare. These men have fallen in the prime of life—in the vigor of youth and strength. Had they fallen in contending for the freedom of their country, their memory would have been consecrated in the annals of patriotism. Their heroism would have been admired even by those who hate our nation—but truth compels me to say that these brave men are now regarded as mere mercenaries, who, for the sake of a handful of dollars, enlist themselves in a strife, the sole object of which is to determine whether one-third of the citizens of the States shall be governed according to their own free choice, or shall be coerced to submit to a connection and to a Government which they repudiate and abhor.

I shall not inquire how many of these Irishmen have been induced by the eloquence of Gen. Meagher to fling themselves into a premature grave, but I feel convinced now, as in 1861, that if the Irish population of America had thrown the weight of their influence into the scale in favor of peace, the miseries of war, which have devastated a region that ten years since enjoyed a greater amount of material prosperity than any other portion of the globe, might have been averted.

I felt it to be my duty to take issue with General Meagher on this point, immediately after his first oration in Boston in favor of the war. My remonstrances were at that time unavailing. He raised his brigades! Where are they now? Yet I feel convinced that the time will arrive when all Irishmen will regret that my advice did not prevail over the exhortations of our eloquent and popular friend.

Nothing but a sense of duty could place me in antagonism to a comrade who shared many of my hopes and disappointments; but as there are some in Ireland, and in America, too, who pay attention to what I say, I feel it to be incumbent upon me, at a time when thousands upon thousands of Irishmen are quitting our shores, to declare that it would be infinitely better for them to remain at home, earning a shilling a day than to be seduced by the glitter of military trappings—by the solicitations of crimps and man-brokers—or by the invocation of the most splendid oratory—to perish as mercenaries in the unholy strife which now desolates the States of America.

Gen. Meagher complains that the Irish people have identified themselves with the Orangemen and Tories of England in their sympathy with the rebels of the South. This charge proceeds from a misconception of the state of feeling that prevails in this country. There are few Englishmen or Anglicised Irishmen who do not rejoice in the separation which has taken place between the Northern and Southern States, because they were accustomed to feel that the growth of American power under the Union was so rapid as to become extremely formidable to England. On the other hand, the patriotic party in Ireland deeply regret the severance of these States, because they found the increasing strength of the United States a guarantee against English oppression, which, under various contingencies, might be useful for the protection of Ireland. But after this war had unhapily broken out—when from the course of events, it became manifest to all mankind that there is between South and North an alienation of feeling which cannot be reconciled—when it became evident that the South even if conquered could be retained in connection with the North only by coercion—then the lovers of human freedom—the upholders of the right of self government began to feel that though the dissolution of the Union might be a great calamity, its maintenance by such means as are employed by Russia in order to retain Poland under subjection, would be a greater evil. Instead, therefore, of hounding on the combatants to mutual destruction, we earnestly pray that the Americans may settle their differences by amicable adjustment, even though the separation may be injurious to us.

Permit me further to observe that, whilst the patriots of Ireland deeply lament the destruction and rapine which now desolate America, those Englishmen who hate the Americans—and they are not a few—rejoice to witness the fury with which the Northerns continue to carry on the war, because the exhaustion of resources which war produces to both the contending parties, strengthens the relative ascendancy of English—power. Those Englishmen, also, who hate Ireland—and they are not a few—are delighted to find such a man as Meagher stimulating his fellow-countrymen to rush into the shambles in which butchery awaits them. They know that every Irishman who has fled to America is an enemy of England. Naturally, therefore, they rejoice when they learn that the number of their enemies is diminished weekly by the operations of a relentless war. We, then, who wish for peace, are entitled to rebut the charge of Gen. Meagher by declaring that he is acting a part which is acceptable to those whom he calls the "Orangemen and Tories of England."

An impression prevails in the minds of some of our deluded fellow-countrymen to the effect that General Meagher is exciting them with such earnestness to take part in the civil war of America, with a view to prepare them for an invasion of Ireland. A more absurd mode of preparing them to attack an enemy was never devised by the imagination of man. It is not told how many Irishmen who enlisted in the Southern armies have been sent into another world by Meagher's brigade; but it has been stated—I believe on his own authority—that he carried twelve hundred fine young Irishmen into the battle of Federicksburg, and that he brought out of that engagement unharmed only two hundred and fifty. Could the worst enemies of Ireland desire that the Irish should be spurred to destruction by infatuation more insane than that which thus induces Irishmen to butcher each other in this accursed war?

General Meagher excuses us on the ground that we are ignorant respecting American affairs, and abstains from imputing base motives to our desire that peace should be restored in the Western world. Following his example, I will not impute to him improper motives for the course which he has adopted. Had he received the honors which are due to his eloquence and to his gallantry, his motives might have been questioned, but we have been led to believe that Meagher, as well as Shields, has been treated with much indignity by the Federal Government, and whilst we wonder at the forgiving disposition that has been displayed by our gallant Brigadier, we feel bound to dissuade our countrymen from entering a service in which they will be placed foremost in every post of danger, and last in every distribution of honors and emoluments.

But if our oratorial friend spares us, he shows no such decorous reserve towards the Southerners, who were accustomed to receive with kindness and hospitality the exiles of Ireland. Upon them he exhausts the copious vocabulary of vituperation which he commands. Now, it is not forgotten by me, at least, that when, in 1854, the *Know Nothing* party of the Northern States sought to prescribe the Irish-born population, the Southerners, with Mr. Wise, the Governor of Virginia, at their head, co-operated with the nobler spirits of the North, in crushing that mischievous faction. It is not forgotten by me that nowhere did I find a kindlier feeling towards Ireland than at Charleston, where the names of Shields and of Meagher were mentioned with an enthusiasm that they would have failed to excite among the party to which Meagher has lately surrendered himself.

In the letter which you have recently published, General Meagher repeatedly designates the Southern rebels as *aristocrats*. Now, I am unable to discover upon what manifestations of Southern feeling he founds this charge that the secession is an aristocratic, and not a popular movement. It seems to me that there has seldom been an insurrection which has, with such unanimity, embraced all classes of society as the secession of the Southern States. If this be so, it is unworthy of a statesman to condescend to raise prejudices against the Southerners by calling them *aristocrats*. It is the more inconsistent because he taunts the Emperor Napoleon with being a *parvenu*, and because it is well known to his friends that General Meagher himself feels it to be a subject of honorable pride that he is descended from the chiefs of Ikerrin. For my part, I believe that the term *aristocrat* is just as applicable to the Northerns as it is to the Southerns, and I have been told that the moneyed aristocracy of New York are more purse-proud and overbearing in their manners than the richest and most aristocratic planters of the South. I do not found this remark on my own observation, for I experienced nothing but courtesy in all parts of America. But General Meagher wholly misunderstands the nature of Irishmen, if he supposes that he can raise in their minds a prejudice against a party by calling them aristocrats. An Irishman naturally loves the "old stock"—nor is this surprising, for many of our peasantry feel that though they have lost property and station by the fidelity of their ancestors to their country and to their religion, still as noble blood flows in their veins as that which is to be found amongst the proudest potentates of Europe. The Southerns may, therefore, accept with pride the designation *aristocrats*, and Irishmen will honor them the more on account of this appellation, when they learn that many of the most prominent families in the South quitted the richest homes of England and Ireland because they loved religious and political freedom better than the delights which belong to aristocratical indulgences in the land of their birth.

Gen. Meagher is more sure of exciting amongst us prejudices against the Southerns when he calls them *slave owners* than when he designates them as *aristocrats*. The Irish people feel an invincible aversion to the institution of slavery; and if this war were really a war of emancipation, there would be few in Ireland who would not pray for the success of the Northerns. But no one knows better than Gen. Meagher that the present war is not a war for the emancipation of the slaves, but that it is a war which is carried on for the purpose of upholding the Union. No one knows better than Gen. Meagher that a large majority of those who are fighting in the ranks of the Northerns regard the abolitionists of slavery as a mischievous and fanatical faction—that this majority would continue to uphold and enforce the detestable "Fugitive Slave Law," and all the other appliances incidental to slavery, provided that the slaveholding States would return to the Union. Had it been a war of emancipation, Congress would have seized the opportunity afforded by the secession to enact and promulgate the freedom of every slave in the United States. But it has done no such thing. It has authorized President Lincoln to declare that the slaves of rebels, over whom he has no sway, are free, but the slaves of the loyal upholders of the Union, who are subject to the legislation of Congress, are still consigned to everlasting bondage.

No one knows better than General Meagher that the condition of the emancipated slave in the North is more humiliating to a sensitive spirit than the enforced subjection which is maintained in the South. He knows that, with a few individual exceptions, the Northern Emancipator will neither eat, pray, nor travel with men of color—even though they be as well educated and refined as the most accomplished of the white population. He knows that the President has held out no other hope to the emancipated slaves of the South than that of compulsory removal to some land distant from the homes of their childhood. He knows that the condition and prospects of the emancipated slave are such that of the many millions of slaves to whom the present war has afforded an opportunity of fleeing from servitude, only a few thousands have sought to escape, though they have been stimulated by the Northerns, not only to flee from their masters, but also to plunder and to massacre the families amongst whom they have lived from their infancy. He has yet to learn that the Southerns may prefer to trust themselves to their slaves rather than submit to Northern domination; and that before this horrible struggle shall be ended we may witness the invasion of the North by half a million of colored troops, armed and led by their former masters.

God forbid that I should say a word in favor of slavery. The one redeeming advantage which I have contemplated as a possible result of this conflict is, that it may induce the Southerns voluntarily to emancipate their slaves; but I will not allow my countrymen to be so misled by grandiloquent vituperation as to believe that this present war is a war undertaken for the abolition of slavery in America. As for our friend Meagher himself, I have no reason to suppose that he ever objected to be the guest or the friend of those "who grow sleek and haughty on the sweat of the black skin;" and if, like some of his friends at Mobile and Charleston, he had inherited an estate to which a few hundred slaves were attached, I am by no means convinced that he would emancipate them.

Having thus endeavored to disconnect from the main question at issue the various fallacies and prejudices by which it has been surrounded, I now address myself to the question whether Virginia, Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and the other seceding States, have or have not a natural and indefeasible right to determine what form of government is most conducive to their interest, and acceptable to their feelings. This appears to me to be a question which does not admit of argument on the part of those who, like T. F. Meagher, have contended that Ireland and Poland have a moral right to withdraw from the domination of England or of Russia.

There is, perhaps, no part of the world in which the pressure of metropolitan dominion is less felt than in Canada, yet Gen. Meagher would not deny to the Canadians the right to declare their independence, or to associate themselves with the States of America. It is difficult, therefore, to understand by what process of reasoning he can satisfy himself that Ireland enjoys such a right—that Poland enjoys such a right—that Canada enjoys such a right—that Australia enjoys such a right; but the States of America, which never, for a moment, relinquished the title of sovereignty that belongs to them individually, ought to be debarred from the enjoyment of a similar right. With very questionable taste he gives, instead of an argument, an anecdote, in which he relates a private conversation that was held at New York by Mr. Toombs, a distinguished Southern, whose sympathies with Ireland and Irishmen have been unreservedly exhibited. This conversation is given as second hand. Gen. Meagher did not hear it himself. The inference which he wishes his readers to draw from it is, that the chief men of the South stimulated the secession movement solely in order to preserve for themselves a monopoly of the offices of the Southern States.

Now, I may be allowed to set off conversations which I heard myself against those which General Meagher received through report from a friend. When I was in Georgia, in the year 1859, I had the pleasure of spending two days at the house of Mr. Toombs, and two days at the house of Mr. Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederate States. Our conversation naturally turned much upon the relations which then existed between the Northern and Southern States. My hosts, one of whom had retired from public life, said nothing that could induce me to think that their minds were effected by considerations connected with official patronage, but they complained much of the calumnies which were daily vented against the Southerns by a portion of the Northern press. They spoke with indignation of the incentives by which their slaves were encouraged to revolt against them—they complained of the injustice, commercial and financial, which the Southern States underwent, as a consequence of their connection with the North—they spoke of the Secession as a probable contingency—as an event which would probably impose upon them many sacrifices; but they stated that these sacrifices would be accepted by the South as an alternative preferable to a continuance of the relations which then subsisted between the Northern and Southern States.

These conversations were held more than a year before the election of Mr. Lincoln—at a time when, according to Gen. Meagher, the Southerners were occupants of all the influential positions of the General Government. I do not remember that the interests connected with official patronage were brought into discussion, but, even if they had been brought forward, I do not conceive that any imputation of "lawless ambition and lust of power," of "selfish and insatiable ambition," could be found upon the introduction of such elements into the consideration of this question. Let us suppose that, in 1782, the Irish patriots had learned that, instead of the amicable adjustment which then took place by a concession of the demands of Ireland, the British ministry had appointed a Lord Lieutenant in Ireland who would undoubtedly have filled all official stations with Englishmen, or with Irishmen who were opposed to the national interests—would Meagher have reproached them if they had made the appointment of such a Lord Lieutenant a *casus belli*, and had subjected to the arbitrament of the sword the questions that were then at issue between England and Ireland?—Neither is Mr. Toombs to be blamed for having taken into account this element in considering the relations between the Southern and Northern States of America.

Equally unreasonable are the reproaches with which the Southerners have been assailed, because at the time of the secession they took possession of the forts and arsenals which were situated in the Southern territory. These forts and arsenals belonged as much to the Southerners as to the Northerners, and as the secession naturally gave to the Northerners the arsenals and dock-yards, which were situated in the Northern States, so it gave to the Southerners those which are situated in the seceding States. If the Irish insurrection of 1848, had been successful, would not General Meagher have laughed to scorn any one who should have reproached him for taking possession of Spike Island, because it was called by the English a British fort.—Fort Sumter stands in relation to Charleston in a position exactly similar to that which is occupied by Spike Island in relation to Cork.

Let it not be supposed, however, that I write these pages with a view to justify the Secession. When I made a tour in the Southern States of North America in 1859, I earnestly implored my Southern friends to renounce the idea of a separation, which could not fail to be disastrous to them, as well as to the whole of the Republic. When I learned that, instead of endeavoring to obtain redress for real or imaginary grievances by peaceful negotiations, the forces of South Carolina had fired upon Fort Sumter, I thought it extremely natural that the inhabitants of the Northern States should meet force by force in the maintenance of the Union. Mr. H. W. Beecher asked an auditory in London last week whether Englishmen would or ought to tolerate the secession of Kent from the political unity which now holds together the several counties of England. I answer without hesitation that such a secession ought to be prevented by force, whilst Kent enjoys equality of rights with the other inhabitants of Britain; and though I maintain, speaking theoretically, that South Carolina or Maine enjoys a right to withdraw from the Union, yet, as a practical question, it is not unnatural that the other members of the United States should endeavor to prevent by force a secession which may be injurious to the whole Union. But since, after a succession of bloody engagements, it has been seen that what appeared at first to be the whim of a single State is the deliberate resolve of several millions of people—since it has been seen that, though contending under many difficulties and disadvantages, the Southern leaders have displayed more able statesmanship and more skillful strategy than have been exhibited by their adversaries—when it is manifest that they possess all the qualifications which render a people fitted for self-government—an attempt to coerce them into enforced subjection becomes nothing less than unjustifiable and intolerable tyranny. At the time when, in 1861, I addressed a letter on this subject to Mr. Seward, it was said by the Northerns that the war would be terminated in three months; yet now, after the lapse of thirty months, it is doubtful whether Washington is not exposed to greater danger than is to be apprehended by Richmond or Charleston; and although the Northerns hold military occupation of many important posts in the Southern territory, they do not appear to have reconciled to their dominion any important section of the inhabitants of the revolted States. The question, therefore, recurs which I put to Mr. Seward in 1861: Assuming that you will, sooner or later, conquer the Southern States, how do you propose to govern them? If you leave to them the rights of self-government, which they have hitherto enjoyed, they will be more dangerous to you as unwilling associates than they could be in the guise of open enemies. There remains, therefore, no other policy by which these territories can be governed except that which was formerly adopted by England towards Ireland, and which is now practiced in Poland by Mouravieff and Berg, under the sanction and approval of the tyrant Alexander. This is the policy of confiscation, devastation and extermination. That lean and hungry adventurers should covet the rich possessions of the Southern planters, and urge forward a system of confiscation and extermination which will resemble the plantation of Ulster and the cruelties of Cromwell, is extremely natural; but it is a spectacle painful and humiliating to all lovers of freedom to find one of the representative men of the Irish race—himself an exile and a Catholic—vindicating a course of policy similar to that which expelled the natives of Ireland from their possessions and from their homes.

I have spent much time in analysing the letter of General Meagher, because, although it is addressed to a private friend, it was evidently written as an appeal to the public opinion of this country. Though it is overladen with cumulative epithets of declamatory invective, it is a production which has evidently been prepared with care and deserves a deliberate response. In this respect it contrasts favorably with an election squib recently addressed by Mr. Meagher to the electors of Ohio in opposition to the claims of Mr. Vallandigham, in whose person all the rights which belong to a free citizen have been violated. Sad, indeed, is it to me to find that our comrade, who was once the champion of human liberty, has enlisted himself as the defender of every sort of tyrannical usurpation—T. F. Meagher, the young tribune, once the champion of his country's freedom, has become the advocate of a system of Government which carries into effect its policy—

By suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, and thereby subjecting the personal liberty of every citizen of the United States to the caprice of a single ruler of his minions.

By coercing into the ranks of the Federal army, through the instrumentality of conscription, all who cannot afford to purchase their deliverance by an enormous ransom; and by driving, under the terror of military execution, unwilling conscripts into field of battle where they perish for a cause which is not sanctioned by the approval of their own consciences.

By superseding the rights which, under the constitution of the United States, were guaranteed to each individual State.

Lastly, by fraternising with the tyrant of Russia, who is at this moment engaged in carrying into effect such a system of measures against the noble Polish nation, as has won for him, and for all who abet him, the execration of mankind.

Alas! that we should ever have witnessed such backsliding on the part of an Irish patriot! If such be the results of Republican freedom (so called) in America, we shall soon learn to be reconciled to the worst forms of European despotism.

How different a career lay open to our friend. Possessing the love and confidence of several millions of Americans, native as well as Irish born, he might have applied his persuasive diction to the restoration of peace, instead of urging these millions to fling their sons into the fire which now burns before the altar of Moloch.—He might have taught the Canadians to look to America for a model of political institutions, and for an identification of interests, instead of repelling them by the taxation, by the conscription, by the monopolising tariffs, and by the loss of personal liberty, which have followed, as consequences from this civil war. *He might* have gladdened the heart of all who belonged to the oppressed nationalities of the world by nobly vindicating the cause of human freedom on behalf of those who suffer in every clime, instead of standing foremost amongst those who welcome to America the emissaries of the cruel despot who now tortures a brave and noble race.

The enemies of Ireland will rejoice that he has made such a choice between these alternatives; but though he may find defenders and apologists amongst a few attached friends, our heads droop with shame when we find one of our chosen chiefs thus lending the support of his great abilities to the cause of the oppressor rather than to the protection of the oppressed. To no one has the language employed in America upon many occasions by General Meagher since the commencement of this war given more pain than to myself; and since he has invited an expression of the opinion of his countrymen, I no longer feel myself at liberty to preserve silence. Earnestly, therefore, do I warn all those who are about to emigrate from Ireland against taking any part in the disastrous contention which is now going on in America, even though they may be tempted by the rhetoric of one of Ireland's most gifted sons to fling themselves into the abyss in which so many who have gone before them have perished. Believe me, my dear friend, very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.

P. J. Smyth, Esq., Irishman.

The following comment upon Mr. O'Brien's letter will give some idea of the effect which may be anticipated from it:

KILBRONEY, Rostrevor, Nov. 4, 1863.

To the Editor of the Irishman:—

Dear Sir:—Permit me to express publicly my gratification at the appearance of Mr. O'Brien's letter upon the American question. When I read the letter addressed by Mr. Meagher to Mr. Smyth, which was published in the Irishman, of the 17th October, I felt that it was a document that required an answer on the part of the people of Ireland. It was an appeal to Irish opinion from an Irish exile, whose brilliant talents and heavy sufferings have given him very strong claims upon Irish sympathy. And it has been answered by the man who, beyond all others, is best entitled to speak for the Irish nation. Upon the question of the American war, as upon almost every other political question, the sentiments of Mr. O'Brien are the sentiments of the great majority of the people of Ireland. He is the representative man of the Irish nation, as truly as is any emperor, king, president, or prime minister of any of the independent nations of the world. And, if our nation lies in base subjection under the foot of the foreigner, at least we may boast that not the proudest of free nations has a manlier representative than ours. Mr. O'Brien replies to Mr. Meagher frankly, deliberately, conclusively. Whatever Mr. Meagher has put forth as an argument he examines with courtesy and refutes with dignity. He tells the real meaning and object of the war now raging in America, the real cause at stake between North and South, the influence and the fortunes of the Irish abettors of the war, and the part which he recommended the Irish to take when the American trouble commenced. I believe he speaks the mind of the great majority of those of his countrymen who think for themselves upon the horrible subject.

For my own part, I fear that I could not write with such temper upon that subject. I am, heart and soul, a partisan of the Confederates in this war. And to me it is misery to think of the hundred thousand of my countrymen who have taken up arms to kill the men of the South, and insult their women, and lay waste their homes, in order to force them to submit to a yoke that they refuse.

I am, dear sir, truly yours,

JOHN MARTIN.

TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. Thrasher, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

ORANGE C. H., Va., Jan. 8th, 1864.

Snow fell to the depth of four inches last night. The weather is milder to-day, and the snow disappearing.—Blankets and overcoats are needed for the soldiers. No military movement of any kind.

CAPTURE OF YANKEES.

RICHMOND Jan. 8th, 1864.

A telegram from Gen. Lee announces the capture, in Hardy County, of one hundred and twenty-five (125) cattle, one hundred and twenty-five (125) mules, and two hundred (200) prisoners. The despatch does not state who commanded the forces making the capture.

GEN. MORGAN IN RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Jan. 8th, 1864.

Gen. Morgan, Lady and Staff arrived here last night about eleven o'clock from Danville. He was received at the depot by a committee of the City Council and escorted to the Ballard House, where a number of distinguished officers and civilians awaited his arrival. He was conducted to the reception room, where he received the warm greetings of old friends and new acquaintances. This forenoon General Morgan, accompanied by the Mayor, was escorted by a battalion of infantry to the City Hall, in front of which an immense crowd had assembled. At noon Gen. Morgan was introduced to the concourse by the Mayor. He came forward, amid prolonged cheers, and said: Fellow-citizens, I thank you for this reception. I hope that my future career will prove that I am not unworthy of the honor you have done me. Again I thank you for this manifestation of kindness. Brief speeches were made by Genls. A. P. Hill, J. E. B. Stuart, and Branch, Judge Moore, Gov. Hawes of Kentucky, Ex-Gov. Letcher, and others. Gen. Morgan was then escorted back to the Ballard House, where he received numerous calls. He is in fine spirits and excellent health.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 8th, 1864.

Nothing of importance transacted in the Senate in open session, and went into secret session at an early hour.

In the House the bill to repeal exemptions was taken up and discussed during all the morning hours. Several motions to postpone and recommit it were made, and various amendments proposed. The hour for the special order arrived before any important action was taken, and the House went into secret session. The discussion developed the fact that strong opposition exists to passing so sweeping a bill, and it is believed it will be greatly modified before it is finally acted on. The arguments of several members this morning against placing such power in the hands of one or two men, as to say who shall or shall not be exempt were peculiarly earnest and impressive. After the secret session was over a bill was presented and referred to prohibit volunteer aids, on Generals' staff, of men liable to conscription.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 8, 1864.

No news. No firing to-day. The Yankees are busy repairing damages to their batteries caused by the storm. No change in the fleet.

Reception of Militia at the Gubernatorial Mansion.—Gov. Smith makes a Speech.

The officers of the several militia regiments of Richmond, and the officers of the Public Guard, all under command of Col. Thomas J. Evans, formed in front of the City Hall Tuesday morning, about 11 o'clock, and preceded by the Armory Band, waited upon Governor Smith. Colonel Evans, in a neat and appropriate speech, tendered the services of the militia to the Governor whenever they were needed for the defence of the city. He referred, briefly, to the prompt manner in which the officers and men composing the various commands, had always responded to every summons made upon them, and closed by saying, that the new Governor would always find them ready and willing to do their duty when called upon.

The Governor from the steps of the mansion, replied briefly, but pointedly, to the remarks of the Colonel. He thanked them for the pleasant surprise. He was always glad to meet his fellow-citizens, and talk over matters with them in the good old Virginia style. His past knowledge of the militia force, and the patriotic gentlemen composing the various commands, gave him no reason to doubt their fidelity, or that they would fail to cheerfully respond when called upon. He had often, in the good old days long past, watched the volunteer force of this city, going through the various military evolutions, during their parades on the public square. He had closely watched their proficiency in the drill with a peculiar satisfaction, for he then had an innate feeling that when their good old mother called upon them to beat back a ruthless, *invading* foe, no matter when it came, they would not be found laggards in the race for glory and honor, but would be ready when called upon.

I am one of those, said the Governor, who have been annoyed at this secondary life, which I am called upon to lead. I had rather be in the field with those brave men, whose patriotism I have seen tested more than once, in the fiery furnace. I love the men of my old brigade, for I know them to be "good men and true"—ready to do or die for the holy cause in which we are engaged. But still, gentlemen, you will always find me ready and willing to do my duty, in whatever position I am called upon to occupy. He only asked the support of his fellow-countrymen, whom he knew were willing to sacrifice all to aid in beating back the hirelings of Yankeedom.

He reverted briefly to the atrocities committed by the Vandals in the State of N. C., and called upon the people everywhere to bear those things steadily in mind. He exhorted the people everywhere in and out of the army, to do their whole duty, to strike boldly and vigorously for "God and our country," and there would be no doubt that an All-wise God would, in his own good time, bless us with peace and independence.

The officers were then marched into the reception room, where they were severally introduced to the Governor. After a few moments spent in friendly conversation the battalion was filed out and dismissed, the band meanwhile playing an inspiring air.

Gen. Breckinridge.—It is a mistake, as has been stated in some of the journals, that Gen. Breckinridge has been relieved of his command in the army of Tennessee.

Cotton.—Middlings were quoted as firm at 81 cents in New York on the 30th December. Black pepper 29½, and quinine at \$2 52½ a \$2 60 per ounce.